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Elastoplast

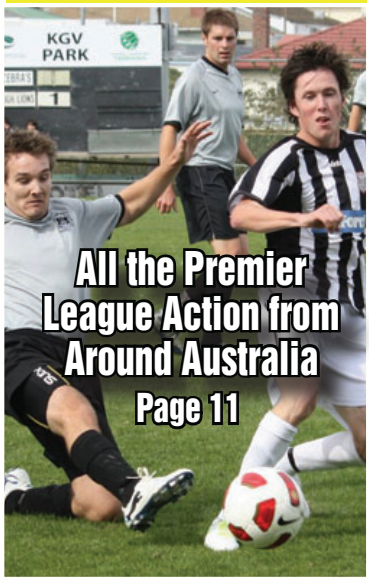
Souvenir Socceroo Poster Inside

AUSSIES STUN GERMANY AND ALL THE REST OF US

ICH BIN EIN SOCCEROO!

PHOTO: SMP IMAGES

This Week's Line Up



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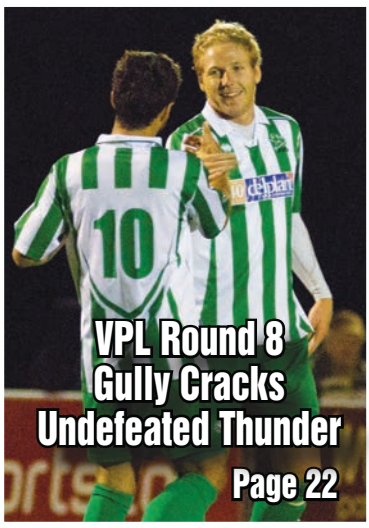

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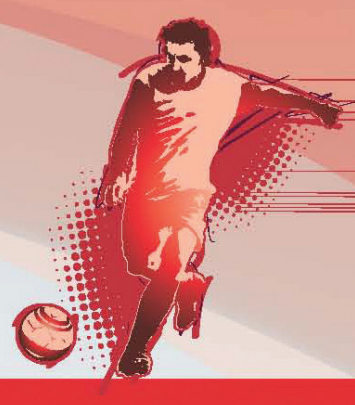
MALAYSIAN GRAND PRIX

Sunday 10th April, 2011



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Socceroos Lay German Ghost To Rest

By Daniel Iaconis

IT was in the 63rd minute of Wednesday morning's friendly against Australia that Germany's worst fears became a reality.

The three-time world champion's had just squandered a 1-0 lead and now faced the daunting task of playing out the remaining 17minutes - plus stoppage time - trailing their less fancied guests from Australia.

While the victory was reminiscent of past Australian conquests in Europe - England in 2003 and Holland in 2008 come to mind - the win further emphasised Australia's ability to adapt its playing style to meet new challenges under coach Holger Osieck; a quality they so blatantly lacked nine months ago in Durban.

While cynics will almost certainly be critical of Australia's win over the Germans in Mönchengladbach as the hosts were without star players of the ilk of captain Philip Lahm, Mesut Ozil, Sami Khedira and first choice keeper Manuel Neuer; it is worth mentioning that Australia were able to overcome a 1-0 half-time deficit without the likes of Timmy Cahill and Jason Culina.

Australia went into the match with their customary 4-4-2 formation, with the midfield featuring a diamond set-up with Carl Valeri playing in a creative role, Mile Jedinak playing a central defensive role and Matt McKay and Brett Emerton playing on either wing.

Mullered: Former VPL and Preston Lions star Sasa Ognenovski keeps Germany's Thomas Muller in check. Photo: SMP Images

The opening half was friendly only by nature, with the Australian's overcompensating for their lack of quality by being over physical and giving away cheap free-kicks to their opponents, this fact was further highlighted at half-time with the foul count reading 10-2 in Australia's favor.

The Australians appeared uncomfortable in possession and each time they had the ball in their own half they were either mobbed by a sea of white shirts or they gave the ball away via ill conceived passes.

The deadlock was broken in the 26th minute when Bayern Munich striker Mario Gomez beat Aussie keeper Mark Schwarzer with a curling ball off one step from outside the penalty area. The goal came of some brilliant one touch passing and a perfectly timed dummy from Christian Trasch and was reminiscent of the sort of play which the Germans had employed with such devastating affect nine months earlier in Durban.

In a bid to stem Germany's midfield dominance, Osieck opted for a makeshift back-three in the 34th minute with Luke Wilkshire joining a 5-man midfield and the Green and Gold immediately benefited from the change, with the Aussies winning 3 corners to end the half with Jedinal getting a header on target.

The Australian side that took to the pitch in the second half was a completely different one to the 11 players who contested the first half, and with Osieck's words of encouragement still ringing in their ears, the Green and Gold scrapped the long ball and instead opted to play a shorter game.

The change in tactics paid off immediately and in the 60th minute David Carney scored after being put through one-on-one with German keeper Tim Wiese thanks to a sublime one-two with man of the match McKay.

The goal accentuated Australia's new found confidence throughout the midfield and highlighted their newfound eagerness to throw caution to the wind and take the game on. The sequence leading up to the goal featured 6 passes with the Australian's creating pressure in their attacking half before forcing the Germans to cough up possession.

No sooner had Wiese taken the ball out of his own net than Wilkshire was lining up for a penalty after Harry Kewell, who was surrounded by three white shirts, was fouled in the German penalty area by Triesh. Wilkshire subsequently scored the 63rd minute penalty to ensure Australia would claim another famous victory on foreign soil.

What will give Osieck, and Australian fans in general, further encouragement was Australia's effort in defence with captain Lucas Neill putting in a courageous shift at the back along with partner in crime Sasa Ognenovski. The two who have often come under fire for being too slow proved Wednesday morning that age is just a number and that they could very well be the foundations for which Australia's tilt at qualifying for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil are built on.

Match Details

Germany 1 (Gomez 26')
Australia 2 (Carney 61', Wilkshire 64' (pen))
Venue: Borussia Park, Monchengladbach
Attendance: 30,152
Referee: Sebastian Lamnoy
Tuesday 29th March 2011

Australia: Schwarzer, Neil, Ognenovski, Carney, Wilkshire, Valeri, Jedinak, Kewell (Kruse 80'), McKay, Emerton, Holman (McGrath 89').

Yellow cards: Jedinak 17', McKay 45'.
Red cards: None

Germany: Wiese, Friedrich, Hummels, Schmelzer, Trasch, Schweinsteiger (Kroos 64'), Bender, Podolski, Schurrie, Gomez(Klose 72'), Muller (Gotze 65').

Yellow cards: Trasch 88', Klose 89'.
Red cards: None

goal! Weekly

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Volkswagen gives U-12 teams the chance to take on the world

What is The Volkswagen Junior Masters?
The Volkswagen Junior Masters is the Australian search to find a team to compete in the global World Junior Masters, a worldwide tournament which coincides with the professional footballing calendar. This year's global final will take place in Poland in 2012, as excitement will be building ahead of Euro 2012.
Leading up to the Volkswagen World Junior Masters, more than 850 teams from over 20 countries will compete in individualnational competitions to determine which club team will represent their home nation. The 2012 final will be first time Australia has taken part in the competition, which has been running for 12 years.
20 under 12 boys' club teams from across Australia, will compete in the national tournament, which will be played over two days on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of October 2011. The winning team will represent Australia at the Volkswagen Junior World Masters 2012.

What is the selection process?
Club teams eligible to complete can nominate themselves by completing an entry form consisting of:

-One team photo
-Team name
-One paragraph describing why the team deserves to be entered into the Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia. Include details of how your team actively helps out in your local community.
-Images that show the team both in action and out in the community

For the very first time, the Volkswagen Junior Masters football tournament will take place in Australia.
Volkswagen is calling for Under 12 boys' club football teams nationwide to register to play at the Junior Masters Australia. Teams can register online at www.juniormastersaustralia.com.au .
The tournament was launched in Germany in 1999 and now features national tournaments in 20 countries around the globe with over 850 teams taking part. The winners of the 2011 Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia will qualify for an all expenses paid trip to represent Australia at the Volkswagen World Junior Masters 2012 to be played in Warsaw, Poland ahead of Euro 2012
Steve Corica, Australian football legend and head Coach of Sydney FC's Youth Team, kicked off the launch of the tournament, saying this was an initiative that would be warmly embraced by football enthusiasts across the country.
"With football the fastest growing sport at a grassroots level, the Volkswagen Junior Masters is a fantastic opportunity for our next generation of football stars and for the future of the sport in Australia. The competition will look to recognise good sportsmanship both on and off the field," said Corica.
Corica went on to say, "I am honoured to be associated with such an inspiring initiative as an Ambassador for Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia, and I look forward to following the journey of the teams as they compete to represent Australia at the Junior World Masters 2012."
To highlight the scale of the opportunity this tournament provides for our U12 teams, in 2010 U12 teams from Schalke (Germany) and Santos (Brazil) played off for the Volkswagen World Junior Masters title in Santiago de Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid.

Entries can be completed online at www.juniormastersaustralia.com.au.

Entries close on Thursday 21st April at 5pm EST.

Volkswagen is looking for teams that not only demonstrate great football skills, but also possess good sportsmanship, team spirit and are actively involved in the community to compete in the Volkswagen Masters National tournament in Sydney in October 2011.

From the online registrations, 50 teams will be selected to progress to the second stage, based upon their entry. These teams will be asked to submit a short video displaying some key training skills, game situations and a few words from the team's captain.
From these entries, twenty teams will be chosen to attend the Volkswagen Junior Masters in Sydney and compete for the opportunity to represent Australia in the World Junior Masters 2012 in Poland.

What does the winning team of the Volkswagen Junior Masters receive?
The winning team of the Volkswagen Junior Masters will win an all expenses paid trip for the team(16 players) and two accompanying adults to travel and participate in the Volkswagen World Junior Masters 2012 in Poland.

For more information about the Volkswagen Junior Masters in Australia visit: www.juniormastersaustralia.com.au

Former Socceroo and Sydney FC legend Steve Corica is the official Junior Masters Australia ambassador, and shows the kids how to juggle their way to Poland thanks to Volkswagen.

Volkswagen Junior Masters

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HOW WOULD YOUR U-12 TEAM LIKE TO TAKE ON THE WORLD?

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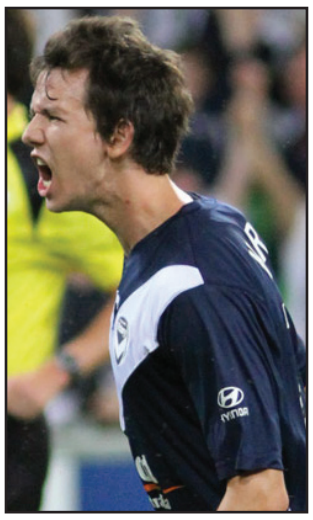
ENTRIES CLOSE:
21 April 2011

Asia the favoured destination

WELCOME to this month's installment of Aussies Abroad. With most overseas leagues now in flight, we are seeing huge numbers of Aussies turn out each week across the globe. A series of friendlies held worldwide saw the Socceroos appear late March, along with several training camps, these are busy times at the national level. With the Hyundai A League finishing for another season, congratulations to Brisbane Roar, we have also seen a lot of transfers abroad.

Dino Djulbic moves to China



German bound Robbie Kruse

Club Level

Starting in England, a good run for Everton but a European place looks increasingly unlikely. **Cahill** is struggling a little with injury and didn't add to his scoring tally during March. A log jam in the bottom half of the table, with Fulham, Blackburn, Villa and Blackpool still in relegation trouble. **Emerton** and **Schwarzer** are seeing plenty of game time, but the big news was **Chris Herd** (Villa) getting his first of hopefully many EPL starts. After a good run in the seniors post Asian Cup, **Dave Carney** seems to have dropped out of favour again. At Championship level, the playoff positions are starting to take shape. **Kilkenny** is in and out of the starting eleven at Leeds as they hold on to fifth position on the table. The **Federici-less** Reading have put on a late charge to be sitting one game out of the play off positions with a game in hand. **Garcia** is back for Hull City who are in danger of missing the playoffs after recent poor form at home. The return of **Rhys Williams,** along with some goal scoring form from **Scott McDonald**, has seen Middlesbrough move clear of relegation danger. Despite some improved recent form by Sheffield United and Preston North End, our Aussie boys are still stuck in the bottom three of the Championship. A few Aussies may move up from League Two with both Chesterfield **(Downes)** and Shrewsbury Town **(Cansdell-Sheriff)** holding automatic promotion spots. **Alex Cisak** (21) continues to lead the revival at Accrington Stanley. They are now only 3 points short of the playoff positions with a game in hand as **Cisak** seems to have cemented his spot in goal. Also a great month for **Jamie Young** (Aldershot Town) but the gap to the playoffs seems to big. Both **Invicibile** and **Mooy** are starting at their Scottish Premier League clubs but results have not been that good. The boys on loan at East Fife, **Matthew Park** and **Dylan McGowan**, have contributed to a great month that has seen the club steer clear of relegation. Over to Italy, where **Adrian Madaschi's** Portosummaga have put together a few wins but still need a few more points to avoid relegation. Although **Mitch Langerak** has returned to the bench at Borussia Dortmund, they remain seven points clear at the top of the table. **Nikita Rukavytsya** (Hertha BSC) is becoming know as an "assist king" as his team are also leading the second division by two points as we approach the business end of the season. **Brett Holman's** AZ have firmed up their place in Europe for next season, with Brett back starting every game. Our boys at Utrecht have slipped back a little and need a few points if they too are to play in European competition next season. All three, **Oar, Zullo and Sarota** have seen game time recently. Despite the fact that Sparta Rotterdam are struggling, **James Holland's** loan move has seen him get much needed senior football. Although still placed mid table, worth noting the goal scoring contributions of **Tomi Juric** (19) at NK Croatia Sesvete in the Croatian second division over the past month. Across in Poland, a poor month has seen **Ante Rozic's** team, Arka Gdynia, slip into the relegation zone with Ante starting most games. With **Scott Chipperfield** back in the lineup, Basel claimed maximum points in March and now lead the Swiss league comfortably. Our players in Turkey are all struggling in mid table with **Neill, Kewell and Jedinak** featuring regularly. Before leaving Europe, a check of our players in Greece. **Nathan Burns** has been playing at AEK as they have moved to third on the table. **Paul Giannou's** Kavala have lost the past two games to drop out of the European places. Plenty of news in Asia. Firstly to Japan. Given the tragedy that has unfolded over the past month, football is hardly a priority. The season did commence in early March but the rest of the month was then cancelled after the earthquake. The season in Korea is also under way with our new boys**, Fyfe, Cornthwaite and DeVere** all joining Sasa **Ognenovski** by appearing in that league. Indonesia is the big story as far as Aussies Abroad goes in Asia with many players making the move the new Premier League over the past few months. In the LPI, Persema are top of the table with **Robbie Gaspar** playing a leading role, while **Josh Maguire's** Semarang are a further game back. A host of ex-HAL players are now starting in this league each week, names like **Susak, Vrteski, Barisic, Micevski, Agius and Karlovic.** The season in China commences early April, with a handful of Aussies expected to commence their loan periods.

Between league games, cup ties, Asian Champions League and Socceroos commitments, **Jon McKain** has been a busy man at Al Nasr (Saudi Arabia). Last but certainly not least, South America. Our sole "Aussie Abroad", **Richard Porta** is in form with his recent goals helping Nacional win the past four games and move to third on the table in Uruguay early in the season.

Club Competitions

Europe

(UEFA Champions League) No Aussies remain.

(UEFA Europa Cup) No Aussies remain.

Asia

(AFC Champions League) Jon McKain (Al Nasr), Adam Griffiths (Hangzhou Greentown) and Josh Kennedy (Nagoya Grampus) all started their club's fixtures.

(AFC Cup) Tolgey Ozbey (East Bengal) started both legs and scored three times during the month

South America

(Copa Libertadores) Richard Porta appeared in both fixtures, however Nacional remain bottom of their group

Youth

Starting with the players eligible for the U20 World Cup, **Tomi Juric** (Croatia Sesvete), **Brent McGrath** (Brondby), **Bailey Wright** (Preston North End), **Sasa Macura** (MTK Budapest II), **Tommy Oar** (FC Utrecht), **Jason Davidson** (Sporting Covilha) and **Dylan McGowan** (East Fife) all played senior football during the month. Turning to those players eligible for the Olympics, **Lowry** (Sheffield United), **Cisak** (Accrington Stanley), **Herd** (Aston Villa), **Luke DeVere** (Gyeongham), **Holland** (Sparta Rotterdam), **McGowan** (Partick), **Mooy** (St.Mirren) and **Govas** (Kozani) all saw plenty of game time at senior level. A mention to the Aussie boys at Portsmouth, we had six players appear in a recent youth team fixture, that must be some kind of record. **Dylan Tombides** (18) has pushed up to the West Ham reserves, while **Jamie Maclaren** (17) has done the same at Blackburn. **Adem Luz** (17) is a regular in the youth team at CD Nacional (Portugal), as are **Jackson Irvine** (18) and **Nick Feely** (18) at Celtic U19's.

Injuries

Unfortunately a lot to note here. A return to the park for **Rhys Williams, Richie Garcia and Daniel Leach** after long injury breaks. Longer term injuries to **Kisnorbo** (Achilles), **Federici** (knee), **O'Connor** (shoulder), **Milligan** (groin), **Gulum** (knee), **Jovanovic** (hamstring), **Esposito** (broken leg), **D'Arcy** (ankle), **Downes** (knee) and **Stambolziev** are keeping these players out while **Georgievski** (back), **Ireland** (thigh), **Gazet du Chattelier** (knee) and **Konstantinidis** (ankle) should all be playing again in April.

National level

The Socceroos played a friendly late March with an impressive result beating Germany 2-1. A very different looking team from that which was crushed in the same fixture during the World Cup, with several older players moving on and a new manager at the helm. Great to see the boys back up well after the disappointment of losing the Asian Cup final. The game was held at the end of a training camp for fringe/future Socceroos where the likes of **Inman, Baccus, Sarota, Madaschi and McGrath** were under the microscope. A great initiative as we widen the search for players for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, one that is appreciated by both players and fans. Expect similar camps to occur more frequently, with a gathering of Young Socceroos before the U20 World Cup in July.

Transfers

The completion of the Hyundai A-League has sparked a flurry of transfers, particularly to Asia. A number of these transfers are short-term loans as players seek game time during the domestic off-season. The State Leagues have also resumed around the country, so several players have returned for those competitions. The number of Aussies now playing in Japan, China, Korea and Indonesia is suddenly around 35.

Additions/changes to database

Fred Agius (2 Feb 1984) – transferred to Cendrawasih FC, Indonesia
Andrew Barisic (22 Mar 1986) – transferred to Persebaya Surabaya, Indonesia
Robert Cornthwaite (25 Oct 1985) – transferred to Chunnan Dragons, Korea Republic
Bruce Djite (25 Mar 1987) - loan to Jiangsu-Shuntian, China
Dino Djulbic (16 Feb 1983) – transferred to Shaanxi Chanba FC, China
Troy Hearfield (31 Oct 1987) – loan to Pelita Jaya, Indonesia
Dean Heffernan (19 May 1980) – loan to Liaoning Whowin FC, China
Brad Jones (19 Mar 1982) – loan to Derby County, England
Mario Karlovic (29 May 1984) – transferred to Minangkabau FC, Indonesia
Robbie Kruse (5 Oct 1988) – transferred to Fortuna Dusseldorf, Germany
Adam Kwasnik (31 May 1983) – loan to Chengdu Blades, China
Jade North (7 Jan 1982) – transferred to FC Tokyo, Japan
Steve Pantelidis (17 Aug 1983) – transferred to Medan Bintang, Indonesia
Jacob Poscoliero (11 Apr 1990) – transferred to Sandona Jessolo Calcio, Italy
Mark Pullman (3 Mar 1991) – transferred to Rhyl FC, Wales
Jonas Salley (16 Mar 1982) – transferred to Chengdu Blades, China
Milan Susak (29 Jan 1984) – loan to Minangkabau FC, Indonesia
Lawrence Thomas (9 May 1992_ transferred to Sheffield United, England
Alex Wilkinson (13 Aug 1984) – loan to Jiangsu-Shuntian, China
Daniel Wilkinson (TBA) – transferred to Cendrawasih FC, Indonesia

Removed from database

Anthony Costa (18 Jul 1986) – transferred to Parramatta FC, NSWPL
Spase Dilevski (13 May 1985) – transferred to Adelaide United, HAL
Scott Gannon (12 Mar 1988) – transferred to Seaford Seahawks, SAFL
Joey Gibbs (13 Jun 1992) – transferred to Manly United, NSWPL
Daniel Sweeney (28 Jan 1992) – transferred to VTC, VPL

Full List of Aussies Abroad

BELGIUM
George Lambadaridis (Club Brugge (Youth)

CHINA
Adam Griffiths (Hangzhou Greentown), Joel Griffiths (Beijing Guoan (ACL)), Dean Heffernan (Liaoning Whowin), Jonas Salley (Chengdu Blades), Brendon Santalab (Chengdu Blades), Dino Djulbic (Shaanxi Chanba), Adam Kwasnik (Chengdu Blades), Alex Wilkinson (Jiangsu-Shutian), Bruce Djite (Jiangsu-Shutian)

CROATIA
Daniel Georgievski (HNK Sibenik (Europa)), Josip Konyit (NK Dinamo Zagreb (Yth)), Marko Sutalo (NK Junak, Tomi Juric (NK Croatia Sesvete)

CYPRUS
Dimitri Hatzimouratis (Alki Larnaca)

CZECH REP
Kerem Bulut (FK Mlada Boleslav)

DENMARK
Nathan Coe (Sonderjyske), Brent McGrath (Brondby IF (Europa))

ENGLAND
Shane Huke (Rushden and Diamonds), Kyle Nix (Mansfield Town), James Meredith (York City), David Scarsella (Guiseley FC), Mitchell Austin (Staly Bridge Celtic), Patrick Kisnorbo (Leeds), Richard Garcia (Hull City), Brad Jones (Derby County), Scott McDonald (Middlesborough), Adam Federici (Reading), Trent McClenahan (Scunthorpe), Neil Kilkenny Leeds England, Rhys Williams (Middlesborough), Shane Lowry (Sheffield United), Daniel Ireland (Coventry City), Marc Warren (Sheffield United), Bailey Wright (Preston North End), Cameron Parish (Preston North End (Youth)), Billy Tsolovos (Portsmouth), Lawrence Thomas (Sheffield United), Aryn Williams (Burnley (Youth)), Ryan Williams (Portsmouth (Youth)), Alex Grant (Portsmouth (Youth)), Andrew Higgins (Portsmouth (Youth)), Patrick Antelmi (Portsmouth (Youth)), Jordan Fitzharris (Portsmouth (Youth)), Dean Gardikiotis (Middlesborough (Youth)), Simon Miotto (Tranmere Rovers), James Wesolowski (Peterborough), Aidan D'Arcy (Huddersfield Town), Shane Cansdell-Sherriff (Shrewsbury Town), Aaron Downes (Chesterfield),Jamie Young (Aldershot), Daniel Leach (Barnet), Alex Cisak (Accrington Stanley), Mark Schwarzer (Fulham), Brett Emerton (Blackburn), Vince Grella (Blackburn), Tim Cahill (Everton), David Carney (Blackpool), Chris Herd (Aston Villa (Europa)), Dean Bouzanis (Liverpool), Bradden Inman (Newcastle United), Matthew Fletcher (Sunderland (Youth)), Reece Caira (Aston Villa (Youth)), Corey Gameiro (Fulham (Youth)), Massimo Luongo (Tottenham), Dylan Tombides (West Ham (Youth)), Jamie Maclaren (Blackburn (Youth)), Alex Baird (Newcastle United (Youth)), Brad Smith (Liverpool (Youth)), Tom King (Liverpool (Youth)), Liam Jacob (Manchester United (Yth))

FRANCE
Kearyn Baccus (Le Mans II/France),

GERMANY
Nikita Rukavytsya (Hertha Berlin), Dario Vidosic (Arminia Bielefeld), Robbie Kruse (Fortuna Dusseldorf), Ante Drazina (Hertha Berlin (Youth)), Mitchell Langerak (Borussia Dortmund (Euro.)), Julius Doe Davies (Bayern Munich (Youth)), Ryan Gazet du Chattelier (Stuttgart Kickers II), James Georgeff (Torgelower SV Greif)

GREECE
Billy Konstantinidis (Pierikos FC), Nicholas Marinos (APS Zakynthos), Christos Tomaras (Eordiakos 2007), Andreas Govas (Kozani FC), Nathan Burns (AEK Athens (Europa)), Apostolis Giannou (AO Kavala), Robert Stambolziev (Panathinaikos (Youth))

HUNGARY
Sasa Macura (MTK Budapest II)

INDIA
Jerry Karpeh (Churchill Brothers), Tolgey Ozbey (East Bengal)

INDONESIA
Josh Maguire (Semarang United), Robbie Gaspar (Persema Malang), Srecko Mitrovic (PSM Makassar Indonesia), Fred Agius (Cendrawasih FC), Steve Pantelidis (Medan Bintang), Milan Susak (Minangkabau FC), Mario Karlovic (Minangkabau FC), Daniel Wilkinson (Cendrawasih FC), David Micevski (Solo FC), Andrew Barisic (Persebaya Surabaya), Andrij Jukic (Bogor Raya FC), Goran Subara (PSM Makassar), Aleks Vrteski (Solo FC), Billy Quinncroft (Bogor Raya FC), Troy Hearfield (Pelita Jaya), Steve Hesketh (Delta Putra Sidoarj), Daniel Mitwali (Persiwa Wamena)

IRELAND
Chris O'Connor (Bohemians (ECL)),

ITALY
Christian Esposito (Pro Vercelli), Max Vieri (A.C. Prato), Adrian Ucchino (AC Sangiovannese 1927), Mark Bresciano (Lazio), Adrian Madaschi (Portogruaro), Carl Valeri (Sassuolo), Francesco Stella (A.C. Siena (Youth)), Stephen Domenici (Vicenza Calcio (Youth)), Theo Markelis (Vicenza Calcio (Youth)), Chris Vartaci (Portogruaro (Youth)), Mario Piraino (Portogruaro (Youth)), James Papargiris (Vicenza Calcio (Youth)), Adam Centofanti (Trento Calcio 1921), Nick Modaffari (Trento Calcio 1921), Jacob Poscoliero (Sandona Jessolo Calcio)

JAPAN
Eddy Bosnar (Shimizu S-Pulse), Joshua Kennedy (Nagoya Grampus (ACL)), Alex Brosque (Shimizu S-Pulse), Matthew Spiranovic (Urawa Reds), Jade North (FC Tokyo), Mark Milligan (JEF United)

KOREA REP
Sasa Ognenovski (Seongham Ilhwa (ACL)), Iain Fyfe (Busan I'Park), Robert Cornthwaite (Chunnan Dragons), Luke DeVere (Gyeongham FC),

LUXEMBOURG
Andy Rakic (FC Victoria Rosport)

MALTA
Simon Zahra (Birkirkara

NETHERLANDS
James Holland (Sparta Rotterdam), Brett Holman (AZ Alkmaar (Europa)), Michael Zullo (FC Utrecht (Europa)), Adam Sarota (FC Utrecht (Europa)), Tommy Oar (FC Utrecht (Europa))

POLAND
Ante Rozic (Arka Gdynia)

PORTUGAL
Jason Davidson (Sporting da Covilha), Aden Luz (CD Nacional (Youth))

RUSSIA
Luke Wilkshire (Dinamo Moscow)

SAUDI ARABIA
Jon McKain (Al Nasr)

SCOTLAND
Ryan McGowan (Partick Thistle), Danny Invicibile (St.Johnstone), Aaron Mooy (St.Mirren), Nick Feely (Celtic FC (Youth)), Jackson Irvine (Celtic FC (Youth)), Matthew Park (East Fife), Dylan McGowan (East Fife)

SERBIA
Aleksandar Jovanovic (Novi Sad), Tomislav Arcaba (FK BSK Borca)

SPAIN
Stefan Vrbesic (Universidad Las Palmas II)

SWEDEN
Ante Covic (IF Elfsborg (Europa))

SWITZERLAND
Scott Chipperfield (FC Basel (ECL))

TURKEY
Lucas Neill (Galatasaray (Europa)), Harry Kewell (Galatasaray (Europa)), Mile Jedinak (Genclerbirlgi), Ersan Gulum (Besiktas (Europa)), James Troisi (Kayserispor)

URUGUAY
Richard Porta (National Montevideo)

USA
Chris Sharpe (Colorado Rapids), Joel Theissen (Ottawa Fury), Xavier Forsberg (Ottawa Fury), Caleb Patterson-Sewell (Miami FC)

WALES
Pasquale Polistina (Rhyl FC), Mark Pullman (Rhyl FC).

Bruce Djite and Robert Cornthwaite are two more A-league stars who joined the Asian exodus during the off-season. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

The world according to Ljubo

LJUBO Milicevic is football's answer to Anthony Mundine. The 30-year-old courts controversy by challenging established views and by refusing to toe the line of political correctness.

One of the most outspoken characters of the modern game in this country was in a good mood when we chatted last week. It was lunchtime and the South Melbourne Hellas star was in between cafes and catching up with friends. It didn't take long for him to be at his effusive and ebullient best.

His opening move turned out to be just a light jab. "I don't rate Ernie Merrick."

By the time a few more lefts were thrown in my direction he wound up with a roundhouse right.

"What does Geoff Lord know about soccer? What does Clive Palmer know about soccer?"

He soon moved in for the knockout punch. It came with his response to a question about the parlous financial state of the Australian game at elite club level.

"What do you expect when the people in charge don't want wog clubs?"

It didn't take long for the former Young Socceroos and Olyroos captain to air his views further on football matters close to home.

"I don't want to talk much about Merrick, Cole or Muscat. They know how I feel. I've got a lot of time for Anthony Di Pietro (new Victory chairman) because the game needs people at the top who have genuinely got football in their heart. I think he's fantastic for the game.

"There's not enough owners like that and that's a major problem. There's not enough people like Tony Sage (Perth Glory owner). Look at all the money he has put into that club over the years. He's the only A-League club owner that has stuck around.

"But (David) Mitchell was the coach and he hasn't had success as a coach. Look at their squad last season. They should have done a lot better than they did."

You sense that Milicevic retains a soft spot for his former club. He joined Glory in 1999 where he scored on debut and was a pivotal figure in the WA club's surge into the 2000 Grand Final.

He feels well qualified to talk about the old national league and the new.

"Everyone's so quick to put down the old national league. I feel it's almost my duty to defend it. I can tell you right know that technically the A-League's not an improvement.

"If you want to know the truth I think the A-League's stuffed. Don't get me wrong. I want the A-League to succeed but I don't think that it will. Not in its present format.

"Maybe we will never have a perfect league or the perfect life , but I'm one that likes to dream"

"The game at club level in this country is where it's at because of ethnic cleansing. Where are all the players, the characters that we used to have? The truth is that the people who run the game don't want personalities. They want robots.

"In Europe players are allowed to be individuals, in fact you are respected if you are an individual over there. Not here, mate. No characters, nothing. To tell you the truth some of the (A-League) teams I've played against weren't even interesting."

And he sees no light at the end of the A-League tunnel.

"Mate, I think the code's gone backwards. I don't see the crowds getting bigger. I mean you have to be crazy to think we're going to fill a ground like Telstra Dome (Etihad Stadium) or AAMI Park for league games. Come on.

"South Melbourne had a great boutique ground, mate, one of the best in the country and it was ideal for the game here but they got shoved. And as a club, South Melbourne genuinely welcomed lots of nationalities but that was the way they got treated. Disgraceful."

When Milicevic left the Jets at the end of January he headed for a medical with second-tier German outfit Arminia Bielefeld. He soon pulled the pin on a potential move though and didn't hesitate to offer the club's coaching staff a blunt assessment of their side.

"I told them they were crap. After one training session I told them that they were already relegated. They said to me that they were going to have a serious push to get out of it but I could see that there were no real characters in the side. And you should have seen some of the goals they were letting in.

"They built this stadium that should have cost, say, $30 million and it ended up costing more like $80 million so they had no money to invest in the team. Where are they now?"

At the time of writing Armenia Bielefeld was anchored to the foot of Bundesliga 2, 10 points adrift of second last Rot-Weiss Oberhausen.

Milisevic's European resume boasts stints as a pro with Swiss clubs FC Zurich, FC Basel, FC Thun and Young Boys, the latter two as captain in the Swiss Super League. In 2005 he played in the Champions League for FC Thun against teams such as Arsenal and Ajax and is well qualified to offer a view of European football.

When prompted about Robbie Kruse's recent switch from Victory to Fortuna Dusseldorf he has a slight chuckle.

"Everyone knows that you go to Dusseldorf to shop not to play soccer. They're not a Bundesliga team. They're quite content to finish round about midtable in the second division and if you go to a club like that with no ambition and you're a striker, mate, you're going to find it hard.

"Let's be honest, he's no Mark Viduka. He can't hold up the ball. He did bugger all against us (Newcastle Jets) bar dribble past a couple of defenders and one of them wasn't even a defender. He was a guy who played in, like, the Italian fifth division. Well, there's a reason that you play in the fifth division."

And don't think for one minute that Milicevic's Croatian heritage makes him pull his punches when Jets head coach Branko Culina is within striking distance.

"Hey, you don't need a five-year plan to build a team if you're good at what you're doing. Look at Ange (Postecoglou) at Roar. Look at what he did. He went in and cleaned out some players and then brought in players that he believed in.

"Roar doesn't play that different to the way South Melbourne used to play when he coached there. It's not a secret formula. Ange is good at recognising talent and then backing them in.

"Let's tell the truth here. The Jets should have done a whole lot better than they did last season."

Ouch! Let's do a running count. Merrick, Lord, Palmer, Cole, Muscat, Mitchell, Kruse and Culina. Eight direct hits and Milicevic isn't even breathing hard.

Now he takes aim once more at the A-League.

"Why did they need a second team in Queensland? They needed a second team in Sydney's west, not in Queensland."

But even Sydney FC is not out of Milicevic's reach. Here comes a stiff uppercut for its owners.

"They don't even believe in their own team to my way of thinking. They won the league with Littbarski and Yorke then let them go because they cost too much. I've got news for them. In soccer you get what you pay for. "If not for Frank Lowy where would Sydney be now?"

Let's take a breather. Enough mayhem for one Goal! Weekly page. Time to find out what's next on Milicevic's soccer odyssey that has taken him from the old Chelsea Hajduk at HD Thomas Reserve in Edithvale to some of Europe's iconic stadia.

"I'll delay going back to Europe for as long as I can because I really enjoy working with Eddie (Krncevic) and Joe (Montemurro). Look, I'd love to stay for the whole season but if I get a good offer from Europe then I'd have to take it."

It's not just Souths fans that will be hoping Milicevic sees out the season here. Supporters of the Alanic VPL and football fans in general would welcome a surge in publicity that this magnet for controversy all but guarantees.

As they say, you can't talk the talk if you can't walk the walk. And Milicevic has no problems in that regard.

It's well worthwhile going to see him in action for South Melbourne because you'll watch a classy footballer strutting his stuff with as much confidence on the pitch as he exhibits off it.

Like him or loathe him he's a character alright. One of the few left in our game.

Ljubo Milicevic takes on Josip Kozic during South Melbourne's 3-1 win over Melbourne Knights last week. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Injury Time

Elastoplast

With Victory Physio Daniel Jones

Hi everyone,

Welcome to my second column for Goal! Weekly. In case you didn't catch my first article, I touched on types of injuries, causes and effects and some basic preventatives to help avoid injuries occurring. You'll be able to find it on the GW website.

For my second article, I thought I would focus on the serious knee injury sustained by Melbourne Victory and Australian capped Archie Thompson. Across this column, I will talk about the injury suffered and how this affected Archie's short-term career along with my involvement in getting the A-Leagues most potent strike weapon back on the park.

Thompson's Torture

Let me set the scene a little. It was the 2010 Hyundai A-League Grand Final, two of the games biggest rivals in Melbourne Victory up against Sydney FC. After coming off the second leg in the major semi final where Archie scored deep in injury time to get us to the Grand Final everyone around the camp were quietly confident heading into the biggest game of the A-League's calendar.

The excitement soon turned to despair as Archie went down with what looked to be a serious leg injury. Ten minutes into the game, he had ruptured the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) of his left knee. His final was over.

Three days later Archie underwent an ACL reconstruction. This procedure involved removing all of the existing ruptured ligament tissue and replacing it with a hamstring tendon graft harvested from his own hamstring muscle. Over time, the graft matured and strengthened until the stability function of his ACL was restored. The excitement of reaching another A league Grand Final was soon replaced with the harsh reality of the long road to recovery.

The Long Road Back

Post reconstruction, Archie had to complete 7 months of daily rehabilitation, which included treatment, consisted of mobilization of his knee, surround soft-tissues to gradually regain range of movement, and eliminate any tightness that arises during the rehab process.

Comeback Trail

After completing all necessary rehab work and to ensure a safe return to competition, Archie had to follow a graduated strength program targeting the entire lower limb kinetic chain, focusing on the quadriceps, hamstrings, calves and buttocks, a key factor in the rehab process. In addition, emphasis on single leg balance and control in jumping and landing situations were administered into his program to help with the recovery process. These factors form the basis upon which knee injury prevention programs are designed and implemented in professional football.

Some players are unlucky enough to sustain an ACL injury recurrence and rupture the graft. Often knee hyperextension is the mechanism by which this occurs. To help combat this from potentially occurring after the ACL reconstruction, I used a combination of rigid and elastic tape to limit hyperextension in the first few months of training and competition in an effort to minimize the risk of recurrence.

Victory's Archie Thompson makes an unexpected early exit from the 2009/10 HAL Grand Final after ruptering his ACL. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Eye of the Tiger

Although this was a major setback for Archie as this kept him out of football for an extensive period, he has a bright future on the park, and shows no signs of what was potentially a career-ending injury. Immediately upon his return, he resumed his goal-scoring ways and remains as agile and sharp as ever. With careful monitoring, we are hopeful that Archie will continue to get stronger on and off the park and still has plenty to offer the Victory and A-League over the coming seasons.

See you next week for our next column.

Strapping and taping techniques can be found by visiting http://www.elastoplastsport.com.au/ or alternatively downloading the iPhone application http://itunes.com/apps/elastoplast

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

Okay, so it was only a friendly, but Australia beat Germany. Not exactly revenge for the World Cup thrashing, but some vindication for those who thought we could have done better in that game if we approached it in a more positive manner. Instead Verbleak the Coward led us like lambs to the slaughter. Well done Holger, so far I don't hate you.

Is the A-League salary cap in place to help keep clubs financially viable or to prevent players becoming crazy spoilt idiots? First Ashley Cole started shooting his air rifle at the Chelsea training ground and now Manchester City's Mario Balotelli has decided to amuse himself by throwing darts at youth team players. The first EPL thrill killing can't be too far away.

Manchester United stormed back from 0-2 down to smash West Ham 4-2, with Wayne Rooney getting a hat-trick. After converting a penalty for his third he ran towards a television camera and you don't have to be a master of lip reading to tell he was giving a tirade full of foul language. Totally out of character from what I have seen of him on those Special 1 TV clips on YouTube.

The State and Provisional Leagues have had their season kick off, and the early results are slowly filtering through. The FFV has now put the onus on clubs to update their own scores on Results Vault, and it seems it will be a while before everyone gets into the swing of things. Even though the workload of the FFV administration has been reduced, club affiliation fees certainly never will be. Perhaps the FFV could use some of the money they reap, or even secure a sponsorship deal with Officeworks, to get a computer for every club's ground? Time for some give after years of take, take take.

Mirabella Departs from Heart

By Daniel Iaconis

The Melbourne Heart wasted no time in ousting one of their foundation investors earlier in the week when the club officially parted ways with Joe Mirabella.

It is believed that the Melbourne Heart board, led by Chairman Peter Sidwell, grew tired of comments made by Mirabella, who had a 20% share in the club, in the media regarding current coach John van't Schip's future at the club.

Mirabella first made headlines in mid-March when he was quoted as saying "We could do a lot worse than looking at bringing Ange to the Heart were he open to the idea," in an interview with SBS' The World Game.

Mirabella's sentiments were backed up a week later in an interview with Four Four Two Australia, with the outspoken shareholder declaring his disappointment with van't Schip's performance at the club while affirming his own personal regret at "knocking back" Ange Postecoglou when the championship winning Brisbane Roar coach applied for the Melbourne Heart coaching position.

While the remaining 5 investors agreed to buy back Mirabella's share of the club, it still remains to be seen how the club will look to fill it. One option is to make the 20% available to the public and give fans the chance to own a share in the club, but the most likely outcome would be to find a sole investor who can take Mirabella's place.

THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

Ladies and Gentlemen and Bald Headed Powerbrokers, Season 2010 has arrived, let the Games begin.

Where after a long pre season, the States finest Club Powerbrokers have scoured Melbourne's finest Night Spots, in search of Pop Stars who will take their beloved Club to Success.

Where the State's finest Pop Stars will use the word "Flat", countless times in their Wage negotiations with Club Powerbrokers

For the uneducated, "Flat" does not refer to the chest size of a Happy End girl, it refers to the weekly wage which will be the same, win, lose or draw.

Where floodlights will switch of during Night Matches.

Where The House Of Darebin will bring various Charges against Clubs, Players and Club Powerbrokers, these charges will be heard by the State's finest Legal Eagles.

And last, but certainly not least, there will be Happy Ends at the Seasons conclusion for some, whilst for the majority, they will be left to lament what could have been.

Do you have a few spare Million Dollars lying around?

Would you like to get your name up in lights, and rub shoulders with the Country's Finest Pin Stripe dressed Administrators, as well as be interviewed by Melbourne's Main Stream Media, where in a blink you will rise from obscurity?

Look no further, there are numerous A-League Clubs looking for generous benefactors, who will be required to put in their hard earned into the Club.

Return on Investment will be Zero, however, contributions over $2 are Tax Deductable, please keep your receipts.

Speaking of A-League Administrators, Melbourne Heart and stakeholder Joe Mirabella have parted ways.

Apparently there was a disagreement regarding the direction of the Club. in terms of who should be the Gaffer there, moving forward.

Mirabella was a big fan of Ange Postecoglou taking on this gig, however, it seems that the rest of the Board did not share this view, wanting to stick to the current Gaffer.

Over to the House of Darebin we go, and credit where it is due, Club Powerbrokers please take note, that if you need assistance from the Good Folk at The House of Darebin, they have set up a Chat Facility on their Web Site, where you will be connected to one of the Good Folk that work there.

Katsa took this new feature for a test drive recently, it certainly beats going to voice mail or being placed on hold, and he gives it the Thumbs Up.

The Socceroos scored a very impressive win over Germany mid week, in what some would describe as a huge upset.

Augers well for future Socceroos campaigns.

Short but not so sweet this week, but chances are I've typed more words than Boo.

This is Katsa

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The Australia Cup

BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

Original Kings of Oz

IN 1962 the newly-formed Australian Soccer Federation instituted the Australia Cup as what was planned as a national knock-out competition. Dr Henry Seamonds, president of the New South Wales Federation of Soccer Clubs first put forward the plan in 1961, but it did not proceed that year, some said because of Victorian opposition.[i] <#_edn1> Initially the competition was confined to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australian clubs and the draw included 16 teams—four each from Victoria and the Sydney competition in New South Wales, three from South Australia and Queensland, and two from Northern New South Wales.

It was not the first attempt at a national competition for football clubs as distinct from state sides for the Ampol Company had sponsored a play-off series in March 1960 for the winners of the Ampol Cups in the four eastern states. On that occasion JUST from Victoria came out on top after a round-robin involving Hellenic from Queensland, Juventus from South Australia and Wallsend from Newcastle, which had earlier knocked-out the Sydney favourites, Budapest in a pre-tournament play-off. The series, which took place in Sydney, was not well attended as a result and it showed that the focus on state activities would take some effort to overcome. There was no interstate champions team cup played in 1961.

In 1962 the dominance of the Sydney sides was re-asserted as Yugal hammered Budapest 8–1 at Wentworth Park in the final. Thereafter the victories were shared fairly evenly between New South Wales and Victoria.

Two Melbourne clubs contested the final in 1963, as Slavia beat Polonia 3–2, in a replay, after a scoreless draw. Des Palmer scored a hat-trick for the winners. Tasmania had four teams taking part that year—Olympia, Juventus, Ulverstone and Rangers. The big Sydney and Melbourne clubs came in at the second round, and Olympia from Hobart bowed out at the quarter-final stage against Adelaide Juventus. In the semi-finals Polonia beat Prague from Sydney by three-one and Slavia accounted for Juventus by two-nil.

Melbourne's George Cross was the winner in 1964 after downing APIA from Sydney by three goals to two in front of an estimated 15,000 at Olympic Park. Archie Campbell scored the winner in extra-time. The Georgies' line-up included Norm Hobson, John McDaid, Bobby Adams, Tom McPherson, John Brown, Archie Campbell, David Goldie, Don Hodgson, Hans Petersen, and Billy Copeland.

Hakoah from Sydney beat APIA the following year by the same score, but finally APIA claimed the title in 1966 by reversing the result against Hakoah.

The Hungarians from the Melbourne club defeated APIA by four-three in the final in 1967. Irish internationalist Bill Walsh was coach. In the cup final, Atti Abonyi, who was to play with the Socceroos for a decade including the World Cup in Germany in 1974, scored a hat-trick. The 1967 Hungaria squad in the State League included Henry Surma, Tony Gregal, Bill McGowan, Ian Shanks, Alistair Scott, Bob Connolly, Peter Kurta, Atti Abonyi, Frank Stoffels, Bill Deszofi, Tom Fowler and Col Myers.

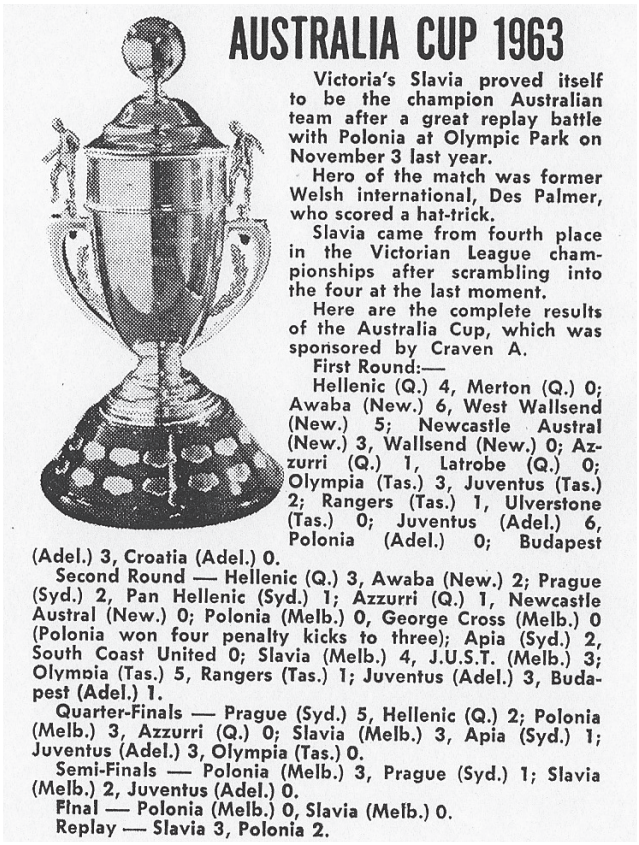
In what proved to be the final year of Australia Cup competition in 1968 the Hakoah clubs of Melbourne and Sydney won through to the final, with the Sydneysiders triumphing by six goals to one over the two legs.

The prize money for the first competition was £5,000, claimed to be the richest football prize in the country. Fred Villiers, in the Victorian Soccer News wrote that the first competition was so successful the New South Wales rugby league administration had stolen the idea to promote their game. [ii] <#_edn2> Yet the tournament never proved to be a financial success. Supporters were much more interested in their domestic league competitions and visits by overseas touring sides, than they were in interstate club competitions.[iii] <#_edn3> If there was not a local interest in the grand final, the theatre-goers stayed away, and home crowds were seldom sufficient to generate great atmosphere or revenue. By contrast, the 1963 New South Wales first division grand final in Sydney between South Coast and APIA drew 30,158. George Cross and South Melbourne played a league game in front of an estimated 25,000 at Olympic Park on 1 July 1962. In 1966, A S Roma attracted 35,856 to Olympic Park in Melbourne for the first match against Victoria, with many more watching from vantage points outside the stadium.

Meanwhile the state Ampol cups continued drawing big crowds. The Victorian final in early 1963 had 16,437 for the match between Hellas and Polonia. Over 93,000 watched the ten games, more than double the attendance in 1962.

The Australia Cup proved that a national cup competition could be staged, but also showed up many of the problems of such a concept. If strictly knock-out from the beginning it risked losing the big drawcards early, while a seeded draw potentially reduced the attractiveness to smaller teams who might be faced with prohibitive travel costs if they succeeded in getting through early rounds. On the other hand, it was an early indication that the focus of the game in the Australia was beginning to shift away from the states to the national and international level. In 1965 Australia set off on attempted qualification for the World Cup for the first time, and just over a decade later the first national league of any of the football codes was established.

Slavia with the 1963 Dockerty and Australia Cups.
From back row left: Billy Cook, Jim Balish, David Meechan, Shell, John Sanchez, Brian Birch, Hammy McMeechan, John Auchie, Tommy Harper, Peter Aldis, Charlie McCorquodale, Nedlomel (committee), Svoboda (committee), Nigel Shepherd, John Oliphant (committee), Ray Barotajs, Mikulec (committee), Pick (secretary), Machacek (committee), Kopecky (patron) Kastanek (president), Pavlas (chairman), Vilimek (patron), Frys (committee), Diakovsky (committee).
Source: 30 Years of Slavia, Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



AUSTRALIA CUP 1963

Victoria's Slavia proved itself to be the champion Australian team after a great replay battle with Polonia at Olympic Park on November 3 last year.

Hero of the match was former Welsh international, Des Palmer, who scored a hat-trick.

Slavia came from fourth place in the Victorian League championships after scrambling into the four at the last moment.

Here are the complete results of the Australia Cup, which was sponsored by Craven A.

First Round:—

Hellenic (Q.) 4, Merton (Q.) 0; Awaba (New.) 6, West Wallsend (New.) 5; Newcastle Austral (New.) 3, Wallsend (New.) 0; Azzurri (Q.) 1, Latrobe (Q.) 0; Olympia (Tas.) 3, Juventus (Tas.) 2; Rangers (Tas.) 1, Ulverstone (Tas.) 0; Juventus (Adel.) 6, Polonia (Adel.) 0; Budapest (Adel.) 3, Croatia (Adel.) 0.

Second Round — Hellenic (Q.) 3, Awaba (New.) 2; Prague (Syd.) 2, Pan Hellenic (Syd.) 1; Azzurri (Q.) 1, Newcastle Austral (New.) 0; Polonia (Melb.) 0, George Cross (Melb.) 0 (Polonia won four penalty kicks to three); Apia (Syd.) 2, South Coast United 0; Slavia (Melb.) 4, J.U.S.T. (Melb.) 3; Olympia (Tas.) 5, Rangers (Tas.) 1; Juventus (Adel.) 3, Budapest (Adel.) 1.

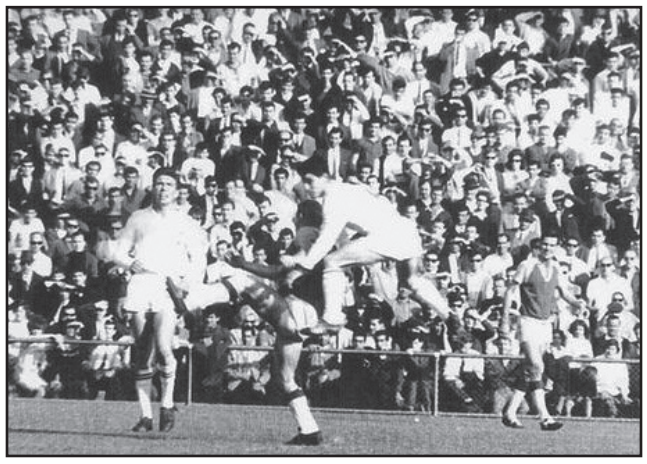
Quarter-Finals — Prague (Syd.) 5, Hellenic (Q.) 2; Polonia (Melb.) 3, Azzurri (Q.) 0; Slavia (Melb.) 3, Apia (Syd.) 1; Juventus (Adel.) 3, Olympia (Tas.) 0.

Semi-Finals — Polonia (Melb.) 3, Prague (Syd.) 1; Slavia (Melb.) 2, Juventus (Adel.) 0.

Final — Polonia (Melb.) 0, Slavia (Melb.) 0.

Replay — Slavia 3, Polonia 2.

Australia Cup 1963, Victorian Soccer Federation Yearbook, 1984, p. 128. This was the only year when the Australia Cup results were covered in the VSF yearbooks. It may have been this was the result of deadline pressures, but it may also be indicative of the lack of interest in the national competition at this time



Action from the 1964 grand final between George Cross and APIA.
Photo: Courtesy of Victor Brincat.

Norm Hobson turns the ball round the post for a corner.
Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

[i] <#_ednref>
Roy Hay, 'Marmaras's oyster or Seamonds' baby? The formation of the Victorian Soccer Federation, 1956-1964', Sporting Traditions, 10, No 2, 1994, p. 8; Lance Robinson, 'Ambitious plan for national soccer,' Soccer News, 16 September 1961, p. 2.

[ii] <#_ednref>
Fred Villiers, 'Record two million to see soccer,' Soccer News, 28 March 1963, p. 1.

[iii] <#_ednref>
The 1963 New South Wales first division grand final in Sydney between South Coast and APIA drew 30,158. Soccer World, 27 September 1963, p. 1; George Cross and South Melbourne played a league game in front of an estimated 25,000 at Olympic Park on 1 July 1962. Soccer Weekly, 5 July 1962, p. 1. In 1966, A S Roma attracted 35,856 to Olympic Park in Melbourne for the first match against Victoria, with many more watching from vantage points outside the stadium. Age, 30 May 1966, p. 18.

Adriano joins Corinthians

Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

FRIENDLIES

Oswaldo Vizcarrondo headed in a corner in the 72nd minute to give Venezuela a 1-1 draw with Mexico in an international friendly Tuesday.

Aldo De Negris opened the scoring for Mexico in the 58th minute. Luis Perez slid the ball along the goal line to Giovanni Dos Santos, who angled the ball in the air to a driving De Negris, who got to the ball just before keeper Leonard Morales and headed it into the net. Mexico could have scored again 10 minutes later, but Dos Santos hit the right post. That left the door open for Vizcarrondo, who headed Yohandry Orozco's corner from the right side past Mexican keeper Guillermo Ochoa. The teams also drew 2-2 at Mexico in October.

Matias Fernandez scored from a free kick and controlled the midfield Tuesday as Chile beat Colombia 2-0 in a friendly international. Jean Beausejour rounded off a quick passing move with a calm shot to make it 2-0 before the half-hour mark and Colombia's attacking play failed to break down a well-organized Chile defense.

The match at ADO The Hague's Kyocera Stadium followed a **0-0 draw between Peru and Ecuador** at the same ground and was part of the teams' preparations for the Copa America, which starts July 1 in Argentina.

It was Claudio Borghi's second match as Chile coach. He started his tenure with a 1-1 draw with Portugal two Fridays ago. Chile reached the second round of last year's World Cup in South Africa, where it lost 3-0 to Brazil.

Borghi's team's pedigree showed when Fernandez curled a 20-meter free kick over the Colombian wall into the top right corner of David Ospina's goal to give Chile the lead in the seventh minute.

Dutch referee Pieter Vink awarded the free kick for a trip by Colombia captain Mario Yepes which ended a scything run by Alexis Sanchez. Hector Mancilla came within inches of doubling Chile's lead in the 14th minute when he intercepted a poor clearance and narrowly fired over the bar from just inside Colombia's half.

Colombia's defense, already struggling to cope with the swift Chile attacks, was further weakened when Napoli defender Camilo Zuñiga limped off after appearing to injure an ankle while trying to make a tackle in the 16th minute. He was replaced by Atlético Madrid defender Luis Amaranto Perea.

Abel Aguilar came close to equalizing in the 26th minute when his low shot was deflected just wide and a minute later teammate Fredy Guarin beat three defenders and sent a curling left foot shot just wide of the far post.

But just as Colombia appeared to be coming back into the match Chile doubled its lead on the half hour. A clearance found its way to West Bromwich defender Gonzálo Jara, who passed to his left for Beausejour who timed his run perfectly and calmly fired over Ospina.

Hugo Rodallega looked certain to pull a goal back for Colombia just before halftime, but Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo stuck out an arm for a great reflex save to parry his shot.

Colombia continued pressing after the break and Aguilar missed another good chance to close the gap in the 56th minute when he scuffed a shot from close range after a sharp pass from substitute Juan Cuadrado. Aguilar again came close in the 67th minute when he hit a low left foot shot just wide with his last touch before being substituted.

Chile nearly made it 3-0 in the dying minutes when Sanchez's shot beat Ospina only to deflect off the outside of the post. Colombia finally found the net in injury time, but the strike was disallowed for offside.

Adriano

Neymar

BRAZIL

Corinthians has confirmed that it has signed former AS Roma striker Adriano. The Brazilian club didn't release details of the deal but published a photo of Adriano holding a Corinthians jersey on its website.

Adriano helped Flamengo win the 2009 Brazilian league but played sparingly with Roma on his return last year to European football and his contract with Roma was cut short earlier this month by mutual agreement. This time Adriano is saying he will do his possible to behave.

"Corinthians won't regret this," he said. "I want to be playing again, I can't stand not playing."

Corinthians supporters, on the other hand, remain skeptical, and many protested against club directors who worked to bring the player to the club. Several other Brazilian clubs had already said they were not going to try to sign Adriano, saying it would be too great a risk.

Adriano is expected to be officially introduced to Corinthians fans on Tuesday, the same day rival Sao Paulo presented former Sevilla striker Luis Fabiano to a near-packed home stadium. Corinthians lost 2-1 to Sao Paulo in the Sao Paulo state championship on Sunday, when opposing goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni scored his 100th career goal. Corinthians hadn't lost to Sao Paulo in 11 matches, since 2007.

Goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni converted a free kick to score his 100th goal as he struck a perfect right-footed shot over the wall, curling the ball into the top right corner past goalkeeper Julio Cesar in the 54th minute at the Arena Barueri.

FIFA states Rogerio Ceni has 98 goals, but the goalkeeper counts two he scored in unofficial friendlies—one against a combined Santos and Flamengo in 1998 and the other against Russian club Uralan Elista in an exhibition tournament in 2000. Even by FIFA's count, he is the goalkeeper with the most goals ever scored.It was Ceni's 56th free kick goal, while the others came from penalty kicks.

Ceni's goal on Sunday also meant a lot for Sao Paulo, allowing the club to end an 11-match winless streak against Corinthians, the team's biggest rival.

Finally, Neymar said he was proud to have his name linked to teams such as Chelsea and Barcelona, and doesn't deny that eventually he would like playing for such great teams.

The striker complained he was racially taunted by Scotland supporters when a banana was thrown near him at the Brazil match, but he later downplayed the issue and said it's already in the past.

Last year, Neymar helped Santos win the traditional Sao Paulo state championship and the Brazilian Cup, along with playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso, who is another Brazilian player being talked-about abroad. The two are expected to lead Brazil when it hosts the 2014 World Cup.

The 21-year-old Ganso, who has just recovered from a left knee injury that sidelined him for several months, reportedly is already negotiating with Inter Milan and AC Milan. Unlike Neymar, Ganso is yet to renew his contract with Santos.

CHILE

After infuriating head executives of opposing clubs in the Chilean Football Federation, all legal and judiciary court appeal have caught the eye of Sepp Blatter at FIFA's headquarters with possible sanctions.

Those who voted against current president, recently-elected Sergio Jadue against the formerly elected candidate and opposition Jorge Segovia, the newly-elected Chilean vice-president of the game's governing body has expressed his concerns of possible repercussions.

The clubs opposed to Jorge Segovia and the current board at the ANFP (Chilean Football Federation) will attract sanctions regardless. This has worried vice-president Cristián Varela.

"Every board member has a right to appeal however, what is worrying is the reaction FIFA may undertake which may undergo lengths to suspending our participation at the Copa America."

Varela has expressed that all legal and judicial action not interfere the game itself and not jeopardise Chile's participation of the continental tournament to be held in neighbouring Argentina to whom he believes if FIFA esteems any wrongdoing, there runs the risk of sanctions.

Still with matters regarding the election process, lawyer Jorge Guerrero has presented documents to the country's Ministry of Justice filing official annulment procedures of the Federation board elections considered "lacking in transparency".

Viva Espana

Pepe Lopez

Barca Pulls Clear as Mourinho cops first home loss in 9 years

With Champions League Quarter Finals scheduled for midweek, all three of Spain's remaining representatives in Europe were scheduled to play Saturday fixtures.

Real Madrid were at home to Sporting Gijon, from the Northern autonomous region of Asturias in Spain, and Barcelona travelled to south the Valencia region to tackle Spain's last standing Europa League challenger, Villarreal.

Barcelona rested Lionel Messi, who was subject to a muscle strain injury in Argentina's friendly fixture the previous week, adding to the injury list of Barca's striker Pedro, who had been out since mid-March with a hamstring injury, and defender Puyol who had been out with a calf related problem since 2010. For third placed Villarreal, there was no better time to take on the seemingly invincible Catalan outfit. However, the match was a cagey affair, without many chances on goal at either end to speak of. Barca striker David Villa had a couple of half chances in the first half, but ultimately was replaced after 70 minutes, as it clearly was not his day. Barca's other striker Dani Alves, who recently renewed his contract with the club, hit the deck in the first half, holding his knee, in what looked like another potential injury, as did Barca defender Mascherano, who had his knee slashed open in a bruising sliding tackle. Surprisingly, somehow the pair managed to see out the 90 minutes, which may have something to do with players not wanting to let go of their first team place at Barcelona.

Messi was introduced in the 50th minute as the match appeared to be heading for a stalemate, but eventually a goal came from the unlikely source of Piquet who some how found himself unmarked on a corner kick and volleyed in the match winner. Villarreal, who appeared happy to play for a draw, perhaps more focused on the upcoming Europa League Quarter-Final clash with Holland's Twente, left it late to start looking for a goal. With just five minutes remaining Villarreal's Santi Cazorla looked destined to score, with a karate kid style volley from close range, but somehow Barca goalkeeper Victor Valdes guessed the direction of the ball and got across the goalmouth, and his legs sent the ball looping over the crossbar.

Earlier in the evening at the Bernabau in Madrid, Coach Jose Mourinho sustained his first home loss in charge of any club in over nine years. Real Madrid were on the receiving end of a shock loss to Sporting Gijon. In the lead up to the opening La Liga matches of April, it appeared that both Real Madrid's Jose Mourinho and Barca's Pep Guardiola were in fooling moods with the press. Guardiola suggested to press that he feared his time at Barcelona was running out, whilst Mourinho claimed that the match against Sporting Gijon was more important the Wednesday's Champions League Quarter-Final against Tottenham Hotspurs. The joke ended up falling upon Jose, as he himself was visably laughing at the sheer amount of goalline clearances the Sporting Gijon defense managed to scramble away to safety in the dying stages of the match at the Bernabeu.

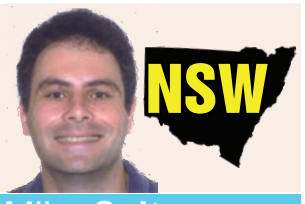
As most teams would, Gijon stacked their defense with numbers behind ball against Real Madrid. Eventually the home team became so desperate to open the scoring they had exposed themselves in defense, and Sporting Gijon countered with a clinical strike from Miguel de las Cuevas against the run of play. His strike, a first touch low effort on the Madrid goal, beat Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas in off the left hand post. Prior to this, Real Madrid had welcomed Argentina striker Gonzalo Higuain from back from injury as a substitute in the 57th minute, but his form was way out of sorts. Real Madrid struggled in midfield, with Ronaldo still out injured, and could not get forward quick enough to catch out the Gijon defense, so much so, that Real's defense resorted to long ball efforts to attack Gijon, as the the match went on. Real's Angel Di Maria limped off the ground midway through the second half, and Mesut Ozil did have a couple of good efforts on the Gijon goal, but even he eventually faded out of the match, as he struggled to find his way through the crowded Gijon defense. Recent Real signing from Manchester City, Emmanuel Adebayor looked the most likely to score, but even when through on goal, could not poke the ball past Gijon goalkeeper Juan Pablo Colinas, who was in sparkling form.

With Barca travelling to Madrid in two weeks for the second La Liga encounter with Real, Real will be playing for pride rather than any realistic chance of winning La Liga. Instead Real will have to look forward to the final of Copa Del Rey at Estadio Mestalla in Valencia, a week later, and a potential Champions League Semi-Final encounter with Barca, if the pair of Spanish representative clubs make it past the Quarter-Finals of the European Champions League.

Real Madrid 0 - Sporting Gijon 1, Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid
Goals: Miguel de las Cuevas (Sporting Gijon - 79th Minute)

Villarreal 0 - Barcelona 1, El Madrigal, Villarreal
Goals: Gerard Piquet (Barcelona - 67th Minute)

Sydney Olympic Set The Pace



Mike Salter

Big-spending Sydney Olympic lead the NSW Premier League after two rounds, thanks to a dogged 1-0 away win over defending champions Blacktown City on Sunday. Details of that match can be found below.

On Saturday title favourites Bonnyrigg were held to a draw again, this time by APIA-Leichhardt, whose star striker Robbie Younis equalised Brad Boardman's first-half opener some twenty minutes from the close. An early goal from youngster Ante Tomic was enough for Sydney United to take the points home from Bossley Park against Marconi, while fullback Shannon Burgin's goal early in the second half gave Bankstown City victory in the "Macedonian derby" against Rockdale at Bicentennial Park.

Sunday saw Manly United draw 2-2 with the Sutherland Sharks in a lively encounter at Cromer Park, while ex-Sydney FC and Newcastle frontman Saso Petrovski scored his debut goal in the NSWPL as the South Coast Wolves secured their first win of the campaign against promoted Parramatta FC.

Match of the Day
Blacktown City 0-1 Sydney Olympic

The defending champions' poor start to the season continued, as a late goal from in-form Alex Smith gave Peter Tsekenis's Sydney Olympic a precious 1-0 away win at the Gabbie.

The hosts started in confident mood, with veteran wide man Michael Brown volleying a loose ball wide and Luke Roodenburg thumping wide from 20 yards after good work by his striking partner Mitchell Long.

Blacktown's young keeper Symon Jaeger, getting an extended chance in goal with the departure of Matt Ryan to the Central Coast Mariners, proved his mettle in the succeeding minutes. Dealing ably with a shot from Robbie Mileski, he then made a smart save when a well-flighted free kick from the talented Chris Triantis was headed at goal by Ibrahim Haydar. Only three minutes later William Angel created another chance for the visitors, but Jaeger had positioned himself well once more.

The game became bogged down in some unsavoury phyiscal challenges, but Olympic got on top again after the half-hour, creating two chances in quick succession. Mileski fired over following a smart pass from Smith, while Hussein Akil was set clean through on goal by Triantis, only to lose his composure and chip the ball over the top.

Central Coast Mariners Under-20 star Mitchell Duke forced a save from Paul Henderson at the other end on 38 minutes, and the remaining minutes of the first half ticked away without incident.

Akil had two more half-chances soon after the break, and with both coming to nothing it looked like being an afternoon of frustration for the visitors. However, in the 61st minute Alex Smith scored his fourth goal of the season, the former Fraser Park man causing a real stir in his first stint in the NSWPL.

Played in down the right, Smith advanced on goal, beat Jaeger with some quick foot movement and finished off from a very narrow angle. A goal well worthy of winning the game.

The final twenty-five minutes looked a daunting prospect for the away side after midfielder Jerry Kalouris saw red in the 64th minute. Booked only eight minutes earlier, he committed a cynical foul on Long which gave referee Andrew Best no choice.

Olympic, however, held on grimly. A dangerous free kick from Travis Major twenty minutes from the end kissed the Olympic bar on its way over the top, but soon afterwards the numbers were levelled when, ironically, it was Long who received his own second yellow of the afternoon.

Major nearly scored a sensational equaliser when he jinked his way past several Olympic bodies by the right-hand touchline, but when fouled by Bill Tsanidis he failed to make the most of the resultant free kick. Olympic in the sole lead, then, for the first time in a good while.

Action form the FNSW Premier League.
Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

NSW Results

ROUND 2: FIRST GRADE:
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Bradley Boardman 19m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Robert Younis 69m), Rockdale City Suns 0 Bankstown City 1 (Shannon Burgin 49m), Marconi Stallions 0 Sydney United 1 (Ante Tomic 5m), Manly United FC 2 (Adam Foti 43/86m) Sutherland Sharks 2 (Panagiotis Nikas 49m Matthew Bailey 80m), Blacktown City FC 0 Sydney Olympic 1 (Alexander Smith 60m), South Coast Wolves 2 (Saso Petrovski 75m Stjepan Paric 82m) Parramatta FC 1 (Chris Camilleri 28m).

GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 6, Rockdale City Suns 1 Bankstown City 2, Marconi Stallions 3 Sydney United 1, Manly United FC 0 Sutherland Sharks 2, Blacktown City FC 2 Sydney Olympic 3, South Coast Wolves 0 Parramatta FC 1. GRADE 18: Manly United FC 2 Sutherland Sharks 1, Blacktown City FC 1 Sydney Olympic 3.

Next Week

Bankstown City vs Bonnyrigg Eagles
Jensen Park 7:00 PM Sat 9/Apr

Sutherland Sharks vs Sydney Olympic
Seymour Shaw Park 7:00 PM Sat 9/Apr

Marconi Stallions vs Manly United FC
Marconi Stadium 7:30 PM Sat 9/Apr

APIA Tigers vs South Coast Wolves
Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 10/Apr

Parramatta FC vs Blacktown City FC
Melita Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 10/Apr

Sydney United vs Rockdale City Suns
Sydney Utd Sports Ctre 4PM Sun 10/Apr

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	6
2 Sutherland Sharks	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	4
3 Sydney United	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	4
4 Marconi Stallions	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	3
5 Bankstown City	2	1	1	0	2	3	-1	3
6 South Coast W	2	1	1	0	2	4	-2	3
7 Bonnyrigg WE	2	0	0	2	3	3	0	2
8 APIA Leichhardt	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	2
9 Manly United FC	2	0	0	2	4	4	0	2
10 Parramatta FC	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
11 Rockdale City	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
12 Blacktown City	2	0	2	0	1	3	-2	0

Brisbane Pummels Cougars

Jarrod Ellis

Saturday night of the QSL saw only one game in action after yet another match postponement due to bad weather. This time it was Bundaberg Spirit and Whitsunday Miners who were the unfortunate parties, both teams now only having played two of the four rounds to date.

There were no such problems at Perry Park where Brisbane hosted Capricorn Cougars, the visitors may have wished for a postponement after the fact however after suffering a 7-0 hiding.

Brisbane was in top form and a Cougars side absent Michael Cay after his shock departure during the week couldn't cope with a potent attacking performance from the home side.

Chris Di Sipio, Matt Thurtell, Brad McDonald and Gareth Musson contributed goals for the Strikers, Di Sipio playing the leading role with a hat-trick.

Di Sipio didn't wait long to make his mark, scoring his first in the opening minutes after being setup by a nice pass from Thurtell.

Brisbane's next goal didn't arrive until well into the first half, Di Sipio's strike partner Thurtell was the man to put the ball into the visitor's net, playing a one-two with Chay Hews to break through the defence before placing a curling shot into the top right hand corner.

The Cougars were lucky to go into the break only 2-0 down, their goalkeeper Tim English was putting on a full display of the skills that saw him recognised as the best keeper in the QSL in 2010.

The second half only got worse for the Cougars, Brisbane taking full advantage as fatigue set in to put five more goals on the visitors.

Di Sipio struck again eleven minutes into the second stanza, setup by a pass from Joshua Searle there was no mistakes from the striker as he beat English with a well placed shot.

Tyler Stross almost snatched one back for the Cougars shortly after but was denied by an alert Brendan White, who remained focused despite his limited action.

Not to be outdone, English soon afterwards made perhaps the save of the match to deflect a Thurtell shot away from almost impossibly close range as the striker arrived at top pace into the penalty area to get on the end of a McDonald square pass.

The Cougars were struggling, and in the sixty-seventh minute Hews found himself in that area with time to pick out both Di Sipio and Thurtell running into the Cougars' penalty area. There was a moment's confusion between the two as Hew's pass arrived, but Di Sipio got his head together in time to despatch the ball left-footed past English.

At 4-0 the match was effectively over but Brisbane didn't let up, McDonald switched from provider to scorer to notch the fifth goal before Gareth Musson marked his return from serious injury by scoring his team's sixth.

A terrible night for the visitors was rounded off in the final minutes of the match when a shot deflected off Matt Sauer and landed in the net, the youngster recording an own goal in the 7-0 rout.

Cougars coach Washington Gonzales did his best to remain upbeat after the match,

"Our team is a team in formation", Gonzales said. "We are rebuilding the team from the last two years.

"We've lost a lot of players and a lot of young kids have come in and you can't compare their experience and quality with somebody who is just beginning.

"But that's no excuse. I believe the Brisbane Strikers deserved to win, but perhaps we should have scored one or two goals. But that's football. I believe it was a lesson for the players and I hope they get the benefits".

Sunshine Coast Fire's Jason Hicks lets one fly but the NQ Razorback keeper had it covered on this occassion.
Photo: ROBYN WOODALL

Queensland Results

Brisbane Strikers 7 v Capricorn Cougars 0

QAS 2 (Ronto 43, McLean 47) v FNQ Bulls 2 (Rusch 45, De Nittis 71)

Gold Coast Stars 2 (Robinson 20, M Hilton 62) v NQ Razorbacks 1 (Crowley 54)

Sunshine Coast Fire 3 v Southern Cross Utd 0

Miners v Bundaberg - Postponed

Next Week

Bundaberg Spirit V Brisbane Strikers
Sat 09-Apr 7:00pm

Capricorn Cougars V QAS
Sat 09-Apr 7:00pm

NQ Razorbacks V Whitsunday Miners
Sat 09-Apr 7:00pm

FNQ Bulls V Sunshine Coast FC
Sat 09-Apr8:00pm

Southern Cross Utd V Gold Coast Stars
Sun 10-Apr 3:00pm

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	4	4	0	0	10	1	9	12
2 Brisbane Strikers	3	2	0	1	10	2	8	6
3 NQ McDonald's	4	2	0	2	7	5	2	6
4 Gold Coast Stars	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
5 Southern Cross	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
6 Qld Academy	3	0	2	1	4	6	-2	2
7 Whitsunday Miners	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
8 FNQ Bulls	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1
9 Capricorn Cougars	3	0	1	2	3	12	-9	1
10 Bundaberg Spirit	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	1

Clarence still on top in Tasmania

TAS

Walter Pless

Clarence United regained top spot on the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder when they downed Olympia Warriors 5-2 at home at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

New Town Eagles had temporarily taken over at the top when they beat bottom-side Glenorchy Knights 3-1 away at KGV Park on Friday night.

Fifth-placed Tilford Zebras stole the honours as far as goals are concerned when they demolished fourth-ranked Kingborough Lions United 7-2 at home at KGV Park on Saturday afternoon.

Liam Scott was the hero for the Zebras. He netted five goals - some reports gave him four and credited the fifth as an own-goal - in his best performance since joining Zebras from South Hobart this season.

Clarence showed no trace of their 8-0 loss to South Hobart last weekend as they proceeded to take Olympia apart in the Eastern Shore derby at Wentworth Park.

Olympia, who had played their previous four games at home on their artificial pitch at Warrior Park in Warrane found that grass does not necessarily provide a soft landing.

Kingborough's Michael Palmer (left) tackles Zebras' Liam Scott. Photo: WALTER PLESS

Goals by Emmanuel Tsakiris on the quarter-hour, Jae Ho Lee in the 33rd minute and Seung Woo Park on the stroke of half-time gave the home side a comfortable 3-0 lead at the break.

Olympia might have hit the front early on when Nick Meredith had a shot saved by goalkeeper Michael Moschogianis, but, as the ball rebounded to Meredith, he lifted it over the bar when it seemed easier to score.

Kosta Grillas pulled a goal back for Olympia in the 65th minute and, when Warren Wadawu added a second three minutes later to make it one goal the difference, the visitors were buoyant.

That was the signal for Clarence's Korean trio to turn it on and goals by Kyu Jun Kim, direct from a free-kick in the 78th minute, and Jae Ho Lee five minutes from the end dashed the visitors' hopes.

Clarence are now 2 points ahead of 2nd-placed New Town Eagles, while Olympia remain second-last.

Eagles had suffered a shock 3-1 away defeat to newly-promoted Beachside last Sunday, but they bounced back against Glenorchy Knights on Friday evening to win 3-1 after trailing by a goal from the Knights' Brendan Garth.

Two goals from set-pieces by Michael Anderson and one from Alex Gordon gave Eagles their win, but coach George Krambousanos was not there to see it. He was attending his daughter's wedding in Melbourne.

The Knights are rock bottom and have yet to win this season. They have just two draws to their name.

Kingborough Lions United took an early lead against Tilford Zebras when Ryan Bevan hit home the rebound in the 6th minute after David Abbott's shot was blocked by goalkeeper Troy Kaden.

It took just two minutes for Liam Scott to equalise as he rounded keeper David Leamey and slotted home inside the far post.

Jayden Welch missed from close range in the 13th minute when Scott played a low ball across the box from the left, while two minutes later, Scott shot wide after Henry Fagg's long pass out of defence.

Kaden produced a fine save from David Cooper in the 20th minute, but Scott put the Zebras in front 5 minute later when he took advantage of hesitancy at the back by Michael Palmer.

Welch made it 3-1 in the 28th minute when he cleverly side-stepped a defender and drove home from just inside the box.

Five minutes before the break, Scott put Dwayne Walsh through on the right, but the striker's poor first touch took him wide and he shot just past the far post.

Scott made it 4-1 in the 42nd minute when Jonathon Ladic put him through the defence, but Lions keeper David Leamey was at fault as he allowed the ball to sneak past him and inside his near post.

It was 5-1 in the 54th minute when Walsh's shot came back off the crossbar and Scott nodded it home, while in the 59th minute, a shot by Walsh was partially blocked by Leamey, but the ball slithered over the line to make it 6-1.

Scott added the seventh three minutes from the end, although a defender may have helped it over the line, while Bevan grabbed a consolation goal, his second of the game, for the visitors in stoppage time after Cooper had cleverly slipped the ball through for him to run onto.

Tasmania Results

Southern Division
Clarence United 5 Olympia FC 2
Tilford Zebras 7 Kingborough Lions 2
Glenorchy Knights 1 New Town Eagles 3

Northern Division
Launceston City 0 Northern Rangers 0
Riverside Olympic 5 Launceston United 4
Burnie United 0 Prospect Knights 3
Devonport City 1 Somerset 4

Next Week

Northern Premier League
Saturday 9th April 2011
Somerset v Riverside Olympic
Cardigan Street 02:30 PM
Launceston United v Launceston City
Birch Avenue 02:30 PM
Northern Rangers v Prospect Knights
NTCA 02:30 PM
Burnie United v Ulverstone
Montello 02:30 PM
Devonport City Bye

Southern Premier League
Saturday 9th April 2011
Clarence United v Glenorchy Knights
Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM
New Town Eagles v Tilford Zebras
Clare Street 12:30 PM
Kingborough Lions v South Hobart FC
Lightwood Park 02:30 PM

Sunday 10th April 2011
Beachside FC v Olympia FC
Sandown Park 1 02:30 PM

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Clarence United	4	3	0	1	7	10	9
South Hobart FC	4	2	2	0	14	4	8
New Town Eagles	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Kingborough Lions	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Tilford Zebras	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
Beachside FC	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Olympia FC	4	1	0	3	6	9	3
Glenorchy Knights	4	0	2	2	5	9	2

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ulverstone	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Devonport City	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Northern Rangers	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Burnie United	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Prospect Knights	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Launceston City	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Riverside Olympic	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Somerset	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Launceston United	2	0	0	2	2	11	0

Take A Bow Croydon Kings

SA

Nat Adamopoulos

ROUND 2 of the FFSA Devine Super League and newly promoted Croydon Kings can take a huge bow after containing NE MetroStars to a 0-0 draw at TK Shutter Reserve.

The Kings took this game all the way and worked the Pre-season cup winners well. It was a unique game where most of the play was in the midfield as both sides found their opposition defences hard to penetrate, keepers Dan Godley (MetroStars) and Dan Christison (Croydon) seeing very little goal action.

The Kings started with Captain Michael Papacharalambous showing the way with some great defensive work fending off the two pronged attack of Stars strikers Michael Matricciani and Francesco Monterosso.

But it was the midfield workhorses that featured in this match, none more so than the stamina and work ethic of Killer King Luke Klimek.

With his physical build perfect for football, his determination and instigation of some great attacking moves was unquestionable and at times brilliant to watch.

Apart from the few runs by Matricciani and opportunities given to Monterosso and Scott Tunbridge which were all well covered by the Kings defence and keeper Christison,

MetroStars were surprisingly lacklustre in this match with key players yet to come back. Unlike their pre-season campaign which proved hard to beat, MetroStars were made to work hard in this match as the Kings continued to methodically weave their way through up front.

Referee Stephen Roth goes in search of the MetroStars perpetrator with yellow card in hand after Croydon's Alemao Kebede was brought to the ground. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

Kings only weakness coming from their inability to make the most of scoring opportunities, thwarted by Metros staunch defenders Dave Menechella, Adam Van Dommele and Captain Lee Robertson, all despite being without hardman Daniel Menechella and 'The General' Ivan Karlovic.

Croydon's new recruit Jimmy Okello (Cobras) was proving worthy of his acquisition, as were the Eritrean trio of Erimas Tekle, Jamal Mahamud and Alemao Kebede each playing a pivotal role in the way the side played.

It was such a refreshing change to see a side come up from the Premier league and match it with one of the benchmark teams and not be totally overridden.

Matt Hiern and youngster Dion Gazettas worked like Trojans nullifying much of any attack that the Stars had. Most promising was the way Croydon was able to maintain possession of the ball providing some tough yet entertaining passages of play.

MetroStars were left frustrated at times, their inability to stamp their authority on this match evident. As momentum started to swing MetroStars way,

Croydon dug in with ten minutes to go and were able to hold on to gain the single point.

Coach Emir Tarabar was disappointed with the result. "We lost 2 points and we didn't get a win. We played some good football out there and Im very happy with the way the new boys played. I feel it was a game we could've won".

Friday night at Jet Park was back in the Super League calendar with Modbury hosting the Adelaide Blue Eagles, both sides looking for their first up win for the season.

The Jets started well with an opportunistic goal by Chris Dean within the first minute of the game to put the Jets in front, sending a shockwave through the Eagles side. Coach Vojo Gluscevic spurred his boys into action, the equalizer coming just seven minutes later via a header from young gun Ian Kamau on the goal line.

Nicholas Bucco had a golden opportunity to put the Blue Eagles two up in the 26th minute with a ball coming in at his feet only to spray it high over the cross bar.

The Eagles were gaining momentum as the game continued, striker Chad Bugeja having several opportunities but unable to make any count.

In the 39th minute some scrappy defending by the Jets saw Bucco slotting away the Eagles second. In the dying seconds of the first half Tony Solanga almost pegged one back as he shot the ball into goal forcing veteran Eagles keeper Gino DeLucia to parry the ball down, Solanga's second bite at the cherry going just wide of the far post.

The wonderful keeping skills of Jets keeper Paul Reilly were on show in the 63rd minute, a shot looking a certainty to cross the line hjis outstretched dive enabling him to pull a fingertip save. The nail in the coffin for the Jets came in the 72nd minute when Kamau found the back of the net again for Eagles 3rd.

In other matches Raiders went down to visitors Adelaide Galaxy 1:2 at the Croatian Sports Centre, Para Hills made it two wins out of two matches with their 2:1 win over the Western Strikers and Adelaide City host Campbelltown at Adelaide City Park Oakden on Monday night in the Italian derby match.

FFSA Results

Modbury 1 (Dean) v Adelaide Blue Eagles (Kamau 2, Bucco) 3 (HT 1 -2)
Best (Reilly, Elekwachi, Harvey) – Best(Kamau, Filletti, Hatzis)
Res – Modbury 4 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 3

Adelaide City v Campbelltown (HT 0 -0)
Res – Adelaide City 4 v Campbelltown 1

MetroStars 0 v Croydon 0 (HT 0 -0)
Best (Robertson, Van Dommele, Godley (GK) – Best(Klimek, Papacharalambous, Hiern)
Res – MetroStars 4 v Croydon 1

Raiders 1 (Willcocks) v Adelaide Galaxy 2 (Madeley 2) (HT 0 -2)
Best (Asres, Tesema, Willcocks) – Best(Madeley, Mcgreevy, Nagel)
Res – Raiders 2 v Adelaide Galaxy 2

Para Hills 2 (Williams,Townsend) v Western Strikers(Julardzija) 1 (HT 1 -0)
Best (Townsend, Selga, Bounds) – Best(Yosief, Russo, Stefanopolous)
Res – Para Hills 0 v Western Strikers 1

Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Para Hills	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
2 Croydon	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	4
3 Metro Stars	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
4 AB Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
5 Adelaide Galaxy	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
6 Raiders	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
7 Western Strikers	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
8 Modbury	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
9 Adelaide City	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
10 Campbelltown	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3

Next Week

Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Metro Stars
Marden Sports Com 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr

Croydon vs Para Hills
Polonia Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr

Campbelltown vs Adelaide Galaxy
Steve Woodcock Sports 3PM Sat 9/Apr

Western Strikers vs Raiders
Carnegie Reserve 7:00 PM Sat 9/Apr

Adelaide vs Modbury
Adelaide City Park 7:30 PM Mon 11/Apr

Perth Pick up Points at Inglewood

Ashley **Morrison**

Ronnie Campbell took over at Perth when Graham Normanton stepped down after twelve years at the helm but a surprise loss against the run of play in the Night Series, followed by a loss and a draw in their opening two games put the pressure on.

Behind the scenes he has had to endure the former coach watching his training sessions and making noises that he wants his old job back. After a bye and a game against the NTC – for no points - it was important his team delivered three points against Inglewood.

They started superbly, Antonio Naglieri found Dom de Felice wide on the right who delivered a pinpoint cross to the head of David Onoforo. From two metres out he powered his header goalwards, but Oliver Taseski stood tall and blocked and then gathered at the second attempt as the ball appeared to be looping over his head into the goal; an outstanding save in the opening minute.

In the 21st minute Perth opened the scoring, Naglieri swung in a corner from the left, Craig Simpson pulled away from the penalty spot and his marker to power an emphatic header past a divining Taseski. It was a clinical finish from a player that seems to have improved under the new coach.

Ndumbe Makeche then showed why he is a player to watch. He received the ball for Inglewood wide on the right close to the byline. With wonderful close control he bamboozled Shaun Kilkelly, pulled the ball onto his left foot, did a quick step-over before rifling the ball under the despairing Devon Spence for Inglewood's equalizer.

Five minutes later he was at it again, this time his fancy footwork took him away from Trent Kay, with the ball appearing to be on a string, he squared up for Alex Stamatiades, but over ran the ball.

From the swift counterattack the game changed. Darko Ilomanoski found himself caught the wrong side of Onoforo at the edge of the Inglewood penalty area and pulled the striker back by his shirt. It was a blatant foul, and with Ilomanoski the last man, he received the obligatory red card. From the resultant free kick, Taseski again pulled off an outstanding save at full stretch to deny Naglieri.

Just two minutes into the second half Perth restored their lead. Robert Sciascia who had replaced Oliviera sped down the left and played the ball to De Felice at the edge of the box. He dropped his shoulder and slipped past the defender before curling an effort towards Taseski's top right hand corner, it clipped the post and nestled in the back of the net.

Three minutes later again it was Makeche who came closest to restoring parity, receiving the ball at the edge of the penalty area he unleashed a powerful low drive that beat Spence but rebounded off the right hand post.

Just after the hour De Felice received the ball at the edge of the penalty box and hammered a powerful shot through the crowded area that Taseski must have seen late, but his reflexes took it wide for a corner.

In the 81st minute Perth sealed the game and claimed all three points. Naglieri found Danskin in space down the right, who appeared to have taken a touch too many, but managed to find Onoforo on the left. The striker showed immense composure for a man whose touch appeared to have deserted him. He dragged the ball away from the lunge of a defender before calmly picking his spot past the advancing Taseski.

Perth claimed all three points in a very open game, in which they showed glimpses of being a force to be reckoned with, if the coach can be allowed to get on with the task in hand unhindered.

Stirling Lions striker Jamie Watt and Bayswater City's George Tchami in action at Macedonia Park (Sunday's game Lions won 4-2). Photo: PETER SIMCOX

Top of the table Balcatta continued their winning ways with a 2-0 win over Armadale. Burton opened the scoring in the 5th minute and Rosindale sealed the points with a second in the 51st.

It wasn't such good news for second placed ECU Joondalup who hosted the Western Knights, Simon Versaico scored the all important two goals that leave the Knights the only undefeated team in the league.

Inversely Sorrento had not won a game but the pressure eased on coach Paul Price as they managed to claim their first victory of the season away at Mandurah City. Cockburn played the NTC, while Floreat Athena who now drop to bottom had a bye. The only other game was between Stirling Lions and Bayswater City and was played on Sunday.

All Flags WA Results

First Team
Inglewood Utd 1 (Makeche 27) Perth SC 3 (Simpson 21, De Felice 48, Onoforo 80); Armadale 0 Balcatta 2 (Burton 5, Rosindale 51); Cockburn City 2 (Grego 18, 59) NTC 1 (Oyet 50); ECU Joondalup 0 Western Knights 2 (Versaico 27, 34); Mandurah City 1 (Brown 90) Sorrento 2 (Timmins 46, T Harnwell 64).

Reserves
Inglewood Utd 4 Perth SC 1; Armadale 2 Balcatta 7; Cockburn City 2 NTC 6; ECU Joondalup 3 Western Knights 2; Mandurah City Sorrento .

Under 18's
Inglewood Utd 0 Perth SC 4; Armadale 4 Balcatta 2; Cockburn City 3 NTC 3; ECU Joondalup 2 Western Knights 3; Mandurah City 0 Sorrento 5.

NEXT WEEK

Floreat Athena FC v NTC
E&D Litis Stadium 8:00 PM Fri 8/Apr
Perth SC v ECU Joondalup
BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr
Balcatta SC v Inglewood United
Grindleford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr
Mandurah City v Bayswater City
Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr
Western Knights v Cockburn City
Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr
Sorrento FC v Stirling Lions
Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 9/Apr
BYE v Armadale

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	6	5	0	1	17	6	11	15
2 Western Knights	5	3	2	0	7	2	5	11
3 ECU Joondalup	6	3	1	2	10	12	-2	10
4 Perth SC	4	2	1	1	8	5	3	7
5 Bayswater City	5	2	1	2	8	9	-1	7
6 Armadale	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	7
7 Inglewood United	4	2	0	2	7	6	1	6
8 Mandurah City	6	2	0	4	6	9	-3	6
9 Stirling Lions	5	1	2	2	6	9	-3	5
10 Cockburn City	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
11 Sorrento	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
12 Floreat Athena	5	0	2	3	6	10	-4	2

Sparkling Tuggeranong Stuns Olympic

Russ **Gibbs**

TUGGERANONG UNITED recorded their first victory of the loop Federation Cup with a stunning 4-1 victory over previously undefeated Canberra Olympic at Woden Park to throw Pool A of the competition wide open.

United, who had stumbled to a hat-trick of defeats prior to this fixture, looked in the mood from the kick off and brought Olympic, who went into the match on the back of a 7-2 drubbing of Woden Valley, back to earth with an audible thud.

It took Tuggeranong only nine minutes to take the lead when Daniel Beaumont sprang a weak offside trap and advanced to coolly slot past Futsalroo international goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou. Twenty minutes later they doubled their lead when Konstantinou miscued a clearance to Beaumont who ran on, drew the 'keeper, and left Alex Weber the simple task of sliding the ball into the empty net.

A second goal to Weber, superbly converting a low Danny Mountrey cross, just after the restart gave United a 3-0 cushion and, despite a well-taken goal from Daniel Barac on his return to the Olympic side after a three-week trial at English Championship club Watford, Tuggeranong were worthy of the three points. A late long-range left-foot spectacular from Tim Stewart, reminiscent of his nickname 'Scholesy' gave added gloss to the score line.

Belconnen United move into pole position in Pool A as a consequence, reasserting their dominance with a 6-3 thrashing of Woden Valley. Nicky Rogers was in prime form in front of goal claiming his first Blue Devils hat-trick after Jack Blackley had given Steve Forshaw's team the lead. A brace from Tom the outstanding Tom Rogic completed the scoring from Belconnen who had seen a 3-0 lead whittled down to 3-2 by the interval, thanks to a penalty from Tom Hirst and a goal from Paul Gagetti, before coming home strongly. The late dismissal of Blue Devils midfielder Dustin Wells may yet prove crucial in the group outcome with the playmaker sent off for a second yellow card late on. Jeremy Butler scrambled a late consolation for Woden who were well beaten.

Tuggeranong United broke it's Federation Cup in style running out convincing 4-1 winners against Canberra Olympic, and throwing Pool A wide open in the process. Photo: JAMES RUSSELL-JONES

Canberra City meanwhile moved into third place with a 3-0 win over White Eagles. A brace of goals from Nikola Taneski added to Simon Allan's opener as City was too strong for their opponents despite fielding stand-in 'keeper Euan Peterkin, normally a forward, between the posts.

In Pool B Goulburn Strikers managed their first goal of the competition through Darkies Dennis, and an improved showing, but were still soundly beaten 6-1 by a Monaro Panthers team containing several youngsters. The in-form Stewart Jones grabbed two goals, as did returning striker Mark Shields on his competitive debut for the club, whilst Lukas Fuhrmann and Luke McGrath added the other Panthers strikes.

Canberra FC meanwhile was once again in the mood for goals as they crushed the challenge of Queanbeyan City 9-0. Michael Spaleta and Josip Jadric led the rout with a brace of goals apiece as Queanbeyan, who trailed only 2-0 at the interval, ran out of legs in the second half and were firmly punished by the Pool B leaders.

Adam Spaleta added his sixth goal of the tournament to the rising goal tally whilst Victor Yanes, Aidan Brunskill, Jon Glass and Izach Clements, with his first goal for the club since moving from ANU FC, all found their way onto the score sheet as the holders marched ever impressively onwards.

Their match with Cooma Tigers next weekend at Deakin Stadium will decide who advances from the pool after the Tigers sneaked past State League One Weston Creek 2-1. loop Federation Cup top-scorer Elyja Shah hit his eighth goal in four matches as the Tigers started well, but Weston hit back and it needed a winner scored twenty minutes from time by ace marksman Alex Castro to keep the Tigers 100% record and give them a chance of making the final should they defeat Canberra FC n their highly anticipated showdown.

ACT Results

Pool A
Tuggeranong United 4 (Daniel Beaumont 9', Alex Weber 28', 48', Tim Stewart 80') Canberra Olympic 1 (Daniel Barac 54')

Belconnen United 6 (Jack Blackley 15', Nicky Rogers 18', 20', 52' (pen), Tom Rogic 63', 69') Woden Valley 3 (Tom Hirst 30' (pen), Paul Gagetti 32', Jeremy Butler 83')

Canberra City 3 (Simon Allan 31', Nikola Taneski 76', 89') White Eagles 0

Pool B
Monaro Panthers 6 (Lukas Fuhrmann, Luke McGrath, Mark Shields (2), Stewart Jones (2)) Goulburn Strikers 1 (Darkies Dennis)

Canberra FC 9 (Michael Spaleta (2), Josip Jadric (2), Adam Spaleta, Victor Yanes, Izach Clements, Aidan Brunskill, Jon Glass) Queanbeyan City 0

Cooma Tigers 2 (Elyja Shah, Alex Castro) Weston Creek 1 (TBC)

LEADING SCORERS
8 Elyja SHAH (Cooma Tigers)
7 Adam SPALETA (Canberra FC)
5 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United), Josip JADRIC, Victor YANES (both Canberra FC), Stewart JONES (Monaro Panthers)

ACT Ladders

Pool A

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Belconnen United	4	3	0	1	18	8	+10	9
2 Canberra Olympic	4	3	0	1	15	7	+8	9
3 Canberra City	4	2	0	2	7	8	-1	6
4 White Eagles	4	2	0	2	5	9	-4	6
5 Woden Valley	4	1	0	3	9	15	-6	3
6 Tuggeranong Utd	4	1	0	3	5	12	-7	3

Pool B

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	4	4	0	0	34	1	+33	12
2 Cooma Tigers	4	4	0	0	22	4	+18	12
3 Weston Creek	4	2	0	2	4	7	-3	6
4 Monaro Panthers*	4	1	0	3	10	12	-2	3
4 Queanbeyan City*	4	1	0	3	3	14	-11	3
6 Goulburn Strikers	4	0	0	4	1	36	-35	0

Saxon Sports EPL Comp Semi-Finals Wrap Up

SEMI FINAL night, the second last night in the English Premier League for this season. The stakes are high and there's anticipation in the air. Who will win tonight and get through to the Preliminary Finals next Wednesday? We'll soon find out…

Semi Final 1 consisted of Manchester City taking on Liverpool, 1st from Group A taking on 4th from Group B respectively. With Manchester City only losing 1 game for the year, and Liverpool losing more than half their games, everyone was expecting the City boys to win this one. But Liverpool came out fighting straight from the first whistle, keeping up with City and taking them to the very end, goal for goal. Liverpool came out on top, beating Manchester City 6-5. A great season for Manchester City but they couldn't overcome Liverpool in the end.

Semi Final 2 started where Semi Final 1 left off. Wolverhampton v Newcastle. With Newcastle's form going in to the finals and Wolverhampton's skill and pace of the game, this was always going to be a close one. Nothing separated the teams at half time, 1-1, and not much changed in the second half when the final siren went at 2-2. This one was going into overtime. With both teams giving there all up until the final siren, there wasn't much left in the tank, but Wolverhampton found a way through Newcastle's defence, scoring the golden goal 2 minutes in.

Group B's 2nd placed side Birmingham took on Group A's 3rd placed Chelsea. Injuries came at the wrong time of the season for Birmingham and they never looked like they were going to be in the game from the start of the match. Chelsea did it easy in the end, demolishing Birmingham 17-4.

Semi Final 4 saw the premier league's favourites in Blackburn (winning every game of the season convincingly) up against Tottenham, who just scraped into the finals on goal difference. Blackburn came into this game very confident, with the best defence in the league, along with the 2nd best attack in the league, they were expected to win this one and advance through to the Preliminary Finals. Tottenham thought otherwise, taking the best team in the league all the way to the final siren, and beating them 10-8. Well played Tottenham.

The Preliminary Finals for this Wednesday are as follows:

Liverpool v Chelsea @ 6:30pm

Wolverhampton v Tottenham @ 7:10pm

The 3rd/4th playoff will follow these games at 7:50pm

Then the English Premier League Grand Final @ 8:30pm

Who will come away with the English Premier League title?

WAG OF THE WEEK

Jennifer Metcalfe Age: 27
Scored with Jermaine Pennant (Stoke City)

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE
Monday April 4th
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

UEFA Champions League quarter finals 1st legs:
Wednesday 6 April
SBS ONE
4.30am (aest) LIVE - Real Madrid v Tottenham Hotspur
6.45am (aest) DELAYED - Inter Milan v Schalke

SBS TWO
11.00pm REPEAT - Real Madrid v Tottenham Hotspur

Thursday 7 April
SBS ONE
4.30am (aest) LIVE - Barcelona v Shakhtar Donetsk
6.45am (aest) DELAYED - Chelsea v Manchester United

SBS TWO
8.30pm REPEAT - Chelsea v Manchester United

Friday 8 April
SBS ONE
4.45am (aest) LIVE - Benfica v PSV Eindhoven
7.05am (aest) DELAYED - Villareal v FC Twente

Saturday 9 April
SBS TWO
7.00pm DELAYED - Porto v Spartak Moscow

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE

Sat Apr 9 Wolves v Everton	9.40 pm (see below)
Sat Apr 9 Manchester United v Fulham	11.55 pm
Sat Apr 9 Blackburn v Birmingham	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 9 Bolton v West Ham	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 9 Chelsea v Wigan	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 9 Tottenham v Stoke	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 10 Sunderland v West Brom	4.30 am (DELAY)
SUn Apr 10 Blackpool v Arsenal	10.25 pm
Mon Apr 11 Aston Villa v Newcastle	12.55 am
Tue Apr 12 Liverpool v Manchester City	4.55 am

**Wolves v Everton
First half and first fifteen minutes of second half will be offered via Viewers Choice.
LIVE coverage on Channel 502 only from 9.40 pm – 11.00 pm.
Coverage of remaining 30 minutes of game will then be shown from 11.00 pm on Fox Sports 2.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Tue Apr 5 QPR v Sheffield United 4.30 am
Sun Apr 10 Swansea v Norwich 2.00 am

The creme de la creme returns to the box this week as European Champions League enters the Quarter Finals.

one HD

Tuesday 05th April 2011
01:00 pm Serie A Matchday 31
10:30 pm World Football News
11:30 pm Arsenal TV Arsenal V Blackburn Rovers

Wednesday 06th April 2011
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 31
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 28
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)
12:00 pm Liverpool TV West Bromwich V Liverpool

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 4th April
6:45am Serie A Catania v Palermo
8:30am Serie A Cesena v Fiorentina
10:15am Serie A Chievo v Sampdoria
1:45pm Bundesliga Cologne v Nuremburg
3:30pm Serie A Genoa v Cagliari
5:15pm Portuguese Liga Benfica v Porto

Tuesday 5th April
12:30am Serie A Parma v Bari

Wednesday 6th April
2:55am SPL St Johnstone v Rangers LIVE

Thursday 7th April
4:30am SPL Celtic v Hibernian LIVE
10:45am Copa Libertadores Santos v Colo Colo LIVE

Saturday 9th April
4:25am Bundesliga Frankfurt v Werder Bremen LIVE
10:45am Eredivisie PSV v Heerenveen
2:30pm League of Ireland Teams Derry v Dundalk
11:55pm SPL Celtic v St Mirren LIVE

Sunday 10th April
6:45am Bundesliga Stuttgart v Kaiserslautern
8:30am Serie A Udinese v Roma
9:40pm SPL Hamilton v Rangers LIVE
11:45pm Serie A Juventus v Genoa

Monday 11th April
4:40am Serie A Fiorentina v AC Milan LIVE
8:30am Serie A Lazio v Parma
10:15am Portuguese Liga Teams TBC
1:45pm Bundesliga Monchengladbach v Cologne
3:30pm Serie A Palermo v Cesena
5:15pm Serie A Sampdoria v Lecce

31 tvnow!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Radio Stars

Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discuss local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.

The Four Diegos
Monday to Thursday 11pm SEN

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Asian Champions League Resumes

By David Manuca

THE Asian Champions League resumes this Tuesday night with Melbourne Victory travelling to China to take on Chinese Super League club Tianjin Teda.

Melbourne Victory have lost two out of two games so far in the ACL, going down 5-1 to Gamba Osaka and then losing 2-1 at home to Jeju United.

Tianjin are currently top of Group E winning both of their games so far, defeating Gamba 2-1 and Jeju 1-0, which makes Melbourne's chances of winning even slimmer.

Interim Melbourne Victory manager Mehmet Durakovic will be looking for his first win since taking over for Ernie Merrick after he was sacked by the club days before their match against Jeju United.

Durakovic was signed as a replacement for Merrick during the ACL, but Archie Thompson has been impressed with the manager for the time he has been in charge at the club backing him to take over as permanent boss of the Victory.

"He's managed the boys well," Thompson said. "Everyone's got the utmost respect for him.

"It's fresh at training, we're working on things we haven't worked on with Ernie."

"We're trying to learn the (new) formation. Ernie had a game plan he stuck with the whole six years. Mehm is a little bit different."

"It's more working on a formation with two up front, being wider with people coming through the middle. We're trying to get the midfielders forward and some width and get some goals. I think Mehm coming in is good."

Melbourne will be giving it their best chance with Archie Thompson revealing Mehmet Durakovic has been working on a new set-up for the Victory featuring two-up front ahead of a midfield diamond.

"I think it opens up, people can come through the middle. We are trying to get the midfielders forward, trying to get some width and try to get some goals and get some stability back in the team," Thompson told the MVFC website.

Another focus of Durakovics' will be fitness, which he claimed his side were lacking if they were to play the style of play he wants, after the 2-1 loss to Jeju United.

"That's what we've been working on in the past two weeks, fitness and passing. I think the guys are a little bit sore, but they will be thankful come Tuesday." Thompson said.

Melbourne Victory will be without defender Matthew Kemp as he recuperates from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Kemp will miss the entire group stages of the Asian Champions League but will be back training in just a few weeks times.

Kemp underwent a full knee reconstruction on the same knee after injuring himself in a match against North Queensland Fury in February 2010 but returned to action in December playing eight games for Victory at the end of the 2010/11 season before playing in Melbourne's first two ACL games..

Though he began to feel some discomfort in his knee and after consulting the medical staff at the Victory they decided that a minor operation was the best course of action, giving Kemp a chance to have a full pre-season and try to return to full fitness for the 2011/12 A-League season.

Danny Allsopp is also unlikely to make the trip as he recovers from a groin injury but Robbie Kruse will play after returning from representing Australia against Germany last week.

On Wednesday night Sydney FC will play their first Champions League game in over a month due to their game against Kashima three weeks ago which was postponed.

Sydney will host Chinese Super League club Shanghai Shenua at the Sydney Football Stadium at 8pm on Wednesday night.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) also confirmed during the week that Sydney FC will host Japan's Kashima Antlers at the Sydney Football Stadium on Wednesday 13 April, 2011 (8pm kick-off).

Sydney's previous game in the ACL against Kashima was postponed due to the earthquake and Tsunami which hit Japan a few weeks back and the away leg will now take place on May 10 in Tokyo.

Group H currently stands with Suwon Bluewings in first place with 4 points, Kashima, Sydney and Shanghai follow all tied on 1 points but Sydney and Kashima have a game in hand.

Shanghai are coming off a 3-3 draw on Friday with Qingdao Jonoon and haven't won a competitive match since the October 24 last year.

In Shanghai's previous match in the ACL they were hammered 4-0 by Suwon Bluewings with Tae-Goon Ha scoring a hattrick.

Sydney FC played a friendly match against Rockdale City Suns last Wednesday evening in preparation for their match against Shanghai.

The game ended 1-1 in what was a highly entertaining encounter. The game was locked at 0-0 until the 76th minute when Dimitri Petratos opened the scoring.

But Rockdale City equalized in injury time when Marino Musumeci tapped in from close range after a blunder in the Sydney FC defence.

The other match in Group H sees Kashima Antlers travel to Korea to take on Suwon whilst in Group E Jeju United host Gamba Osaka.

Sydney FC continues its assault on the Asian Champions League this week against Chines Super league side, Shanghai Shenua. Photo: GEOFF JONES

ACL Details

Match Day 3
Sydney FC
v
Shanghai Shenhua (China)
Wednesday 6 April
KO 8pm (AEDT)
Sydney Football Stadium

Match Day 6
Sydney FC
v
Kashima Antlers (Japan)
Wednesday 13 April
KO 8pm (AEDT)
Sydney Football Stadium

Match Day 3
Tianjin Teda (China)
v
Melbourne Victory
Tuesday, April 5
KO 6.30Pm (AEDT)
Tianjin Teda Football Stadium

All matches will be broadcast on Fox Sports.

10TH -15TH JULY 2011

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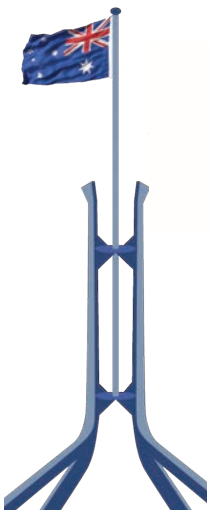

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Starting with a HUGE opening ceremony on the Sunday, all teams will play pool matches on Monday to Wednesday with Semi Finals and Consolation matches on the Thursday before Grand Finals on the Friday. Team's will play a minimum of one and maximum of two matches per day. Off the field is an action packed schedule that includes the Movie Night, Players Disco, Team Officials Dinner, Player of the tournament and Fair Play Awards plus much more.

We invite all clubs, players, coaches, referees, volunteers and supporters to join us in Canberra for an action packed week of Football, Friendship and Fun.

*Players Disco

*Fair Play Awards

*Movie Night

Nominate your team today: 21st Kanga Cup, 10th – 15th July 2011
Contact: Adam Castle, Tournament Director
Email: kangacup@capitalfootball.com.au
Visit: www.kangacup.com

SOCCEROOS

PHOTO: SMP IMAGES

The Socceroos line up prior to defeating football powerhouse Germany, 2-1 in a friendly played in Monchengladbach last week.
Back row: Harry KEWELL (Galatasaray), Brett EMERTON (Blackburn Rovers), Mile JEDINAK (Genclerbirligi), Sasa OGNENOVSKI (Seongnam Ilhwa), Mark SCHWARZER (Fulham FC),David CARNEY (Blackpool FC).
Front row: Brett HOLMAN (AZ Alkmaar), Carl VALERI (Sassuolo Calcio), Luke WILKSHIRE (Dinamo Moscow), Lucas NEILL (Captain) (Galatasaray), Matt McKAY (Brisbane Roar).

Match Details

Germany 1 (Gomez 26')
Australia 2 (Carney 61', Wilkshire 64' (pen))
Venue: Borussia Park, Monchengladbach
Attendance: 30,152
Referee: Sebastian Lamnoy
Tuesday 29th March 2011

Australia: Schwarzer, Neil, Ognenovski, Carney, Wilkshire, Valeri, Jedinak, Kewell (Kruse 80'), McKay, Emerton, Holman (McGrath 89').

Yellow cards: Jedinak 17', McKay 45'.
Red cards: None

Germany: Wiese, Friedrich, Hummels, Schmelzer, Trasch, Schweinsteiger (Kroos 64'), Bender, Podolski, Schurrie, Gomez(Klose 72'), Muller (Gotze 65').

Yellow cards: Trasch 88', Klose 89'.
Red cards: None

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BDF Beiersdorf

Will three become two for the Enlgish?

Three English teams head into the Champions League Quarter-Finals this week. Of course, with United and Chelsea meeting each other, England is guaranteed at least one team in the semis, but which of the two will it be? And does the other English representative, Tottenham Hotspur, have any chance of knocking out European giants Real Madrid?

Can Spurs Reign in Spain?

It is just a couple of days until Tottenham Hotspur take the field as the Santiago Bernabeu in what is undoubtedly one of the biggest games in the clubs history. Away to Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the Champions League; it must sound like a dream to every Spurs fan.

Right now though, one has to wonder if the dream could just as easily turn out to be a nightmare. Yet another Spurs player, Alan Hutton, has announced that he'll be missing both legs through injury. He joins a list that includes Ledley King, Jonathan Woodgate, William Gallas and Younes Kaboul who are all either definitely out of the first leg or at least very doubtful.

And notice that all of these players mentioned above happen to have a certain expertise is defending. At this rate Harry Redknapp might have to slip a shirt on and play at the back for the club that he has already done so much for.

Whoever does get the start at the back for Tottenham will have to contend with one of the most talent rich attacks in world football. And as if the likes of Ozil, Di Maria and Higuain were not scary enough, the current lead striker for arguably the biggest club in the world happens to Emmanuel Adebayor. Yes, the very same Emmanuel Adebayor that played for Tottenham's most hated of rivals Arsenal.

Football, and in fact sport in general, has a habit of making things happen; how often have you seen a striker score against his former employers? And it really wouldn't surprise me if the lanky striker from Togo managed to get on the score sheet against Spurs, which I suppose may provide the tiniest bit of comfort for those who used to adore him at the Emirates.

Then there is the fact that Spurs may be missing Gareth Bale. Undoubtedly their best performer in Europe this season, Bale is one player that could cause a serious threat to the Madrid defence, and him not being there means that the attacking threat that Spurs will be able to pose will be greatly lessened. He may still make it, but as Arsenal showed by rushing Fabregas back against Barcelona, sometimes forcing someone back can be a detriment to the team rather than a help. Playing or not, the fact that Madrid do not have a fully fit Bale running at them undoubtedly increases their chances of victory.

And yet, even though Madrid will go into the game as favourites, and rightly so, Tottenham without a doubt have a chance. Something which should give the Spurs boys some confidence is that not many people thought they would beat Milan over two legs, yet they deservedly did.

Also, for all of Tottenham's injury worries, Madrid have some of their own, with two of their best attackers, Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema, both possibly out. That being said, this news did come from Jose Mourinho, who has been known to be less than completely truthful before in matters such as this.

Spurs can also take heart from Real Madrid's most recent result, a one goal to nil home defeat to Sporting Gijon. This result is Jose Mourinho's first defeat at home for a staggering 150 games. The problem I can see for Spurs though is that Gijon based their victory on solid defending, and managing to nick a goal at the other end. Even if Tottenham had all their first-choice defenders fit and ready to play, Redknapp's teams are exactly known for being great at the back.

I simply can't see Madrid not scoring; yet I do think there is room for optimism for all those hoping for good things for Spurs. As they showed against both Milan sides, Tottenham can create chances and can beat the big European teams. If they approach the game in the same way that they did the game in Milan, I see no reason why they can't get a goal themselves. And if Spurs can get Madrid back to North London with an away goal, even if they are behind overall, then their vociferous home support, that have been starved for success on this scale for years, may just get them to the semi-finals.

That being said, I do think Madrid will be a step too far for Spurs; they'll be a little more technically astute, a little stronger, and what chances come their way they'll take. And if this does happen, although it'll hurt now, Tottenham can be really proud of what they've achieved in Europe this season.

Manchester United and Chelsea go head to head this week in a Battle of Britain Champions League Quarter Final.

United v Chelsea – Which English team is Semi-Final bound?

In recent years there have been a number of all English ties in the Champions League, and there is about to be another one. Chelsea and Manchester United are all set to butt heads yet again this season, in what will be a repeat of the 2008 Champions League Final, with the prize on offer this time being a place in the Semi-Finals.

The way the draw has gone suggests that whoever comes out the victor will probably make it to the final, in London no less. But which of the two will have the chance of winning Europe's biggest club prize in their home country?

On one hand there is Manchester United. Here you have the club which is leading the Premier League, still rolling in the FA Cup, and who have been much more consistent than all of their main rivals all season.

Yet on the other hand is Chelsea, a team in whose most recent meeting with United ended in them coming out with all three points. A team with a new European striker who can lead the line against a team which he has done well against in the past.

Speaking of Chelsea's new goal-shy striker, Fernando Torres, he recently did an interview in which he suggested that the two-legged battle between the two teams that have dominated English football for the last six years is too close to call. And I almost have to agree.

We all know the major strengths and weaknesses of both clubs at this point in the season, and I'm sure that both are confident of victory. But for me I can only see Chelsea coming out on top. I think that Chelsea will be far hungrier for the win than United will be. They'll take the confidence from beating the Red Devils last time out, and will really look to put heaps of pressure on a club who could be forgiven for being a little distracted with killing off Arsenal in the race for the Premier League crown.

And, just as Adebayor will almost certainly score for Madrid against Spurs, I'm sure that it's almost inevitable that Torres will break his scoring duck against United over the two legs, especially with the defensive frailties that United have shown without Rio Ferdinand in their line-up.

So that's wins for Madrid and Chelsea on the cards in my opinion, which probably means that you should put some money on Spurs and United doing well. But no matter who comes out on top, we are all in for some exciting European nights over the next two weeks.

UCL Details

Quarter-Finals
5 April
Real Madrid v Tottenham Hotspur
FC Inter Milano v FC Schalke 04

6 April
Chelsea FC v Manchester United FC
FC Barcelona v FC Shakhtar Donetsk
Return legs to be played on the April 12th and 13th

Round of 16 - 2nd Legs
Shakhtar Donetsk 3-0 AS Roma
Aggregate: 6-2

Barcelona 3-1 Arsenal FC
Aggregate: 4-3

Tottenham Hotspur 0-0 AC Milan
Aggregate: 1-0

Schalke 04 3-1 Valencia
Aggregate: 4-2

Manchester United 2-1 Marseille
Aggregate: 2-1

Bayern München 2-3 Inter Milan
Aggregate: 3-3 Internazionale win on away goals

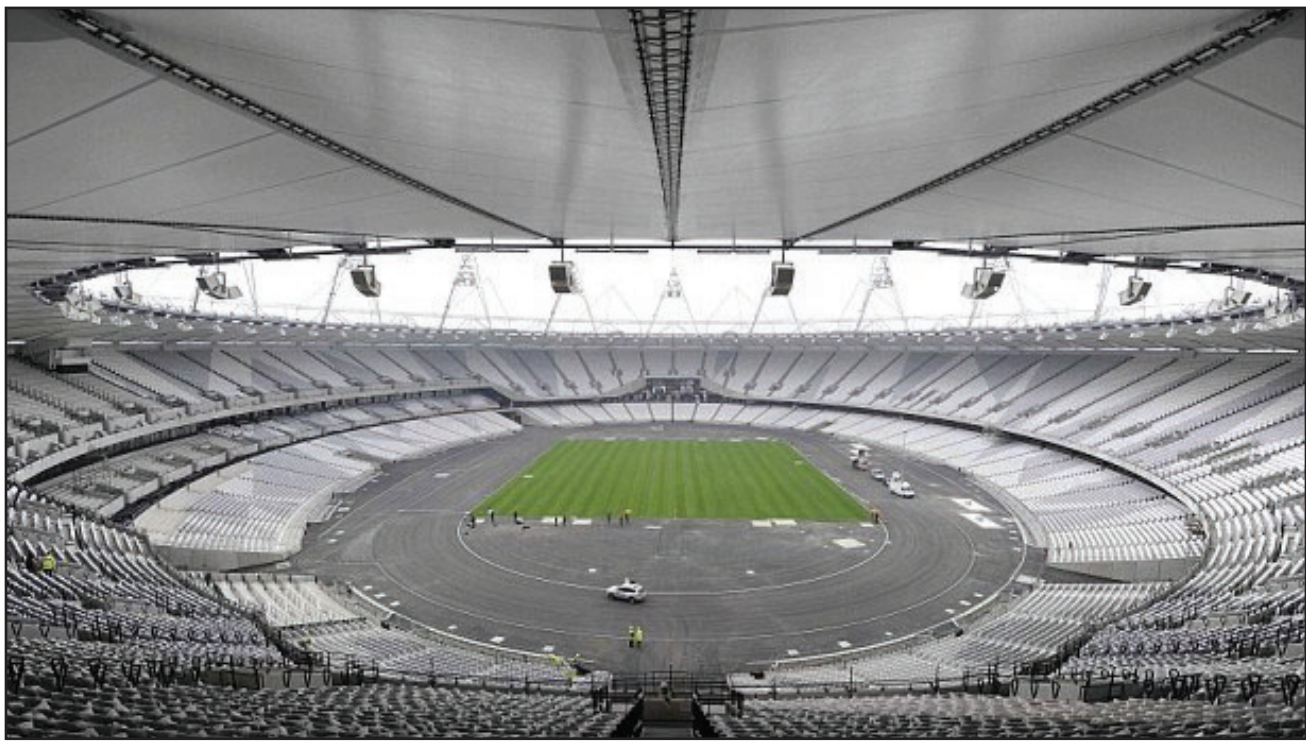
Chelsea FC 0-0 FC København
Aggregate: 2-0

Real Madrid CF 3-0 Olympique Lyon
Aggregate: 4-1

LONDON CALLING

With Leroy Robinson in the UK

The Reason Spurs Just Can't Let Go



The Hammers could potentially have the best ground in the Championship: A peak inside London's Olympic Stadium.

On 30th March London's Olympic Stadium was completed ahead of time and apparently under budget. While the cynic in me thinks that doubling the original £240m budget to £468m and then falling within that is nothing to get too excited about, the stadium looks fantastic and West Ham ought to be excited about their new home.

But hold the phones! Last week it was announced that Tottenham's lawyers were seeking clarification over the decision to award the 2012 Olympic stadium to West Ham. For those unaware, or unconcerned, West Ham has been awarded the lease to the stadium after the 2012 Olympics - meaning they'll move from historic (meaning antiquated) Upton Park to the 60,000 capacity venue in time for the 2013-14 season. The clarification Spurs seeks is detailed in letters to those parties involved in making the decision.

The move smacks of desperation from Spurs, and their unwillingness to accept that West Ham made the more attractive bid is embarrassing.

Let's look at the facts:

1 -West Ham are based in East London and the Olympic stadium is in Stratford, East London.

2 – West Ham's bid guaranteed that the running track would stay, meaning the venue can be used for future athletics events.

3 – Spurs are not only based in North London but wanted to rip up the running track and redevelop the 'historic' athletics stadium at Crystal Palace as part of an Olympic legacy.

The question is why are Spurs acting like a jilted lover? It was really a no-brainer for those making the decision. Spurs made a bid based on what was best for them and West Ham compromised and made a bid that suited their desire for a move and the desire to keep an Olympic Stadium.

Now I'm no fan of running tracks around football pitches but history has told us that every country wants to have some sort of lasting legacy from an Olympics. Some fans may point out, quite correctly, that Manchester City dug up their running track and put seats in the City of Manchester Stadium. But that was because they were allowed to, and the stadium was only for the Commonwealth Games. And, most importantly, they had no competition.

"The Club's lawyers have written letters to the OPLC, the Mayor of London, the Minister of Sport and the Secretary of State for Local Government and a separate letter to the London Borough of Newham raising a number of concerns with the processes which led to the award", read a statement on Spurs' website.

The devil is in the details. They have no beef with the decision (of course not!) just the "processes" which led to it! The fact is, whatever reply Spurs get, the decision has been made and they should move on. Conspiracy theorists have said that this is part of a wider strategy by the club. The strategy allegedly involves winning the bid against little old West Ham and then threatening Haringey Council with a move to Stratford. You see Tottenham really want to stay within the North London area, but they can't afford to move to a new site and build a stadium from scratch. Renovating White Hart Lane would be nice as the club could do with having 60,000 people paying for tickets, food and concessions on match days. But they can't afford it and there's not enough corporate interest in spending £500m, especially when Arsenal's project cost £390m during a time when the economy was in a better state than now.

The real problem is the council. Whereas Newham Council have underwritten £40m for the Hammers move to Stratford, Haringey Council are offering Spurs nothing to help with stadium costs. Newham understands the benefits to the local economy whereas Haringey council have no interest in helping Spurs. The MP for Tottenham, David Lammy of Labour, is happy to criticise Spurs for biding for the stadium and happy for Spurs to be a part of the community but when Spurs need help he and his political buddies are found wanting. This means Spurs are like a teenager that wants to leave home but can't do it without help from mum and dad.

Most Spurs fans didn't want to move to Stratford, but some didn't understand that winning the bid would have helped them in their bid to get council funding. Some of these fans are traditionalists who think that things won't be the same if Spurs leave White Hart Lane. But isn't that the point? Things change and in order to compete Spurs need 60,000 going to their games. The trouble for Spurs Chairman Daniel Levy is that now Spurs have played their hand and lost, they have fewer aces to show Haringey, hence their inability to go down quietly.

What A Load of Twits

Something happened this week that should be food for thought for all footballers using social networking sites such as Twitter. A man was left embarrassed after he forwarded a rude email about his ex-girlfriend to her by mistake. As they still live together that's not a good idea. The problem came when the email went viral and now the world knows what surveyor Harry Fildes thinks of her. "I don't dislike many people but she is one", he wrote. It should also be noted that he didn't mind if his friend tried to get her knickers off, even if he does think ex, Jenni Palmer, is a "fucking twat".

Famous Facebook users and tweeters beware, what you say is more or less the same as whispering in the world's collective ear. When Ryan Babel tweeted a mock picture of referee Howard Webb in a Manchester United shirt earlier this season, he may as well have sent it straight to the FA with a note saying 'please charge me with misconduct'. Did he really not expect the media storm that blew his way? Social networking is part the new media and there are people that follow these guys just to pick up on such stories.

Like the story of Paul Konchesky's mum who said that Scousers were living in the past and that her son should have stayed at Fulham. This was in response to the treatment her son got from fans and was perfectly understandable. However, when you slate a city or its fans you cannot win. Paul is now on loan at Nottingham Forest. Thanks mum, next time I'll fight my own battles.

Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk, 58, banned social networking when Ryan 'yes him again' Babel streamed two hours of live coverage of him and teammates playing Pro Evolution Soccer on a games console in their hotel room. If that isn't an advert for having younger coaches in the game I don't know what is. Two hours isn't even hardcore!

One of the best purveyors of the art is Rio Ferdinand. Not only is he followed by 715k plus followers, he has some famous followers of his own. He doesn't just tweet football, he tweets others sports too and likes a bit of banter. This is a new breed of footballer from the media shy bunch I saw when growing up. During interviews you could see their eyes glaze over and their brains churning over every cliché in the book. And not much has changed about interviews, they're still crap. However, today's tech-savvy players like Jack Wilshere have been weaned on Twitter, Facebook and MySpace and, rather than see social networking as restrictive they should see it as liberating, a way of getting their point across by giving the fans a little piece of themselves without having their privacy invaded.

Free speech is alive and well in football, just watch what you say! I'll leave you with one quote that summed up this weekend.

"At 130pm today who would have thought the results would have gone this way!? The PL is nuts this year! #unpredictable"

Rio Ferdinand on Twitter after United came back from 2-0 down to beat West Ham 4-2, and Arsenal bumbled their way to a sterile 0-0 against 10-man Blackburn.

Top Premier League Tweeters

Jack Wilshere 393K followers
Cesc Fabregas 640k followers
Rio Ferdinand 715k followers
Cristiano Ronaldo 2.3million followers

Rooney shines in United comeback

Euro Wrap

Alex Luttrell

Wayne Rooney scores a hat-trick to inspire Manchester United to fight back from two goals down to beat West Ham 4-2 and boost their Premier League title challenge.

EPL

Week 31 in the Barclay's Premier League saw a dramatic development in the title race on Sunday morning as a memorable win for Manchester United could not be mimicked by second placed Arsenal and third placed Chelsea.

United travelled to Upton Park and a second half come-back through a Wayne Rooney hat-trick saw them seal a memorable win after a disastrous first half for the Red Devils. Two penalties from Mark Noble in the 11th and 25th minutes gave West Ham hope thanks to a Patrice Evra handball and a reflex Nemanja Vidic tackle.

However, United had other ideas in the second half with Rooney finding the net from a free kick in the 65th, a crisp strike in the 73rd, and another penalty in the 79th completing his hat-trick. Hernandez put the icing on the cake with a close range bullet in the 84th.

The win saw United move seven points clear in the Premier League of nearest rivals Arsenal, and 11 points clear of third-placed Chelsea. Arsenal met Blackburn Rovers at the Emirates in a very frustrating match for Arsene Wegner in his side's title race.

The Gunners could only manage a point after a 0-0 draw against ten-man Blackburn after Steven Nzonzi was dismissed in the 76th. The result saw them lose more ground on United for the Premier League title.

Chelsea had similar problems away to Stoke at Britannia Stadium thanks to a 1-1 draw as their hope for another title are all but lost this season.

Elsewhere, Liverpool travelled to the Hawthorns where West Brom were gifted a 2-1 win. Newcastle asserted that they can live without Andy Carroll with a 4-1 win over Wolves, Everton drew 2-2 with Aston Villa, Birmingham defeated Bolton 2-1 and Tottenham lost ground for Champions League qualification after a 0-0 draw with Fulham.

Bundesliga

In the German Bundesliga a series of comfortable wins from the top three outfits saw no changes in European qualification with Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen sealing good wins on Sunday night.

Dortmund demolished Hannover 4-1, Munich defeated Borussia Monchengladbach 1-0 and Leverkusen was too good for Kaiserslaughtern, winning 1-0.

Mario Gotze opened the scoring for Dortmund in the 59th which was followed up by a 64th and 73rd minute brace from Lucas Barrios. Kevin Grosskreutz sealed the win in the 83rd minute.

In Munich, a solitary goal for Arjen Robben in the 78th was enough to seal the win for Bayern. Likewise for Leverkusen, who travelled to Kaiserslaughtern where a 74th minute goal from Sidney Sam gave them the win.

Elsewhere, Werder Bremen drew 1-1 with Stuttgart, as did Mainz drew with Freiburg, Schalke defeated St. Pauli 2-0 and Hoffenheim saw out a 0-0 draw with Hamburger.

Ligue 1

In the French Ligue 1 on Sunday morning Lille continued to assert their dominance over the rest of the competition after a comfortable win over Caen and Rennes are just holding onto third after a 0-0 draw with Auxerre for 24 hours.

Lille played host to Caen and goals from Aurelien Chedjou in the 30th, Eden Hazard in the 62nd and Moussa Sow in the 73rd were enough to seal a win that sees them seven clear on top till Marseille and Lyon play overnight. Lyon could even leapfrog Rennes into third place with a win.

Elsewhere, Monaco defeated Arles Avignon 2-0, Nancy drew 0-0 with Bordeaux, as did Paris Saint-Germain with Lorient, Sochaux overcame Stade Brest 2-1 and Montpellier defeated Toulouse 1-0.

La Liga

There were only three games played in Spain on Sunday morning, but they were the games that mattered in putting all that was left of a title race between Barcelona and Real Madrid to sleep.

Barcelona, who were already five clear of Madrid on top of the table coming into their week 30 clash away to Villarreal, managed to stretch the margin out to eight. A solitary goal from defender Gerard Pique in the 67th was enough for the giants to claim three points.

The win for Barca was met with even more joy as Madrid lost 1-0 to Sporting Gijon at the Bernabeu thanks to a late 79th minute winner from De las Cuevas. The loss means the season is all but over for Madrid but not mathematically as of yet.

In the other game, Valencia moved up to Champions League's third spot for 24 hours with a 4-2 win over Getafe.

Serie A

In the Serie A on Sunday morning first placed AC Milan met second placed rivals Inter Milan in what was the undisputed match of the season between the cross-town rivals towards the title race.

Both sides met at the San Siro at full strength with the winner almost certainly going on to win the Scudetto. AC Milan prevailed 3-0, virtually stealing the championship from their second placed rivals, Inter, as they go five points clear with seven games remaining.

Alexandre Pato opened the scoring in the first minute and scored his second in the 62nd. The sealer came from substitute Antonio Cassano in the 89th minute. In the only other game on Sunday morning Brescia overcame Bologna 3-1, which saves them from the relegation zone for now as they jump to 17th on goal difference.

Balkan Wrap

Alex Milic

SERBIA suffered a set back following a 1:1 draw with outsiders Estonia in Talin.

The 'white eagles' dominated from the get go but failed to make the most of its scoring chances and Estonia rightly so punished Vladimir Petrovic's men and denied Serbia 3 valuable points.

This means Serbia must win all of its remaining matches to be a chance for a play off spot. Two tough encounters away to Northern Ireland and Slovenia and a home match against group leaders Italy are all must win! Taking to account they defeat the Faroes, Serbia has it all to play off and everything now depends on them and they don't have to wait for other results. This where they must show their true character if they want to be part of the European Championships next year in Poland and Ukraine.

Marko Pantelic was once more Serbia's scorer as he put the 'white eagles' in the lead seven minutes before half time. In freezing cold snowy conditions, the Serbs had plenty of golden opportunities to add to their tally but Jovanovic, Tosic and Ivanovic failed to find the net and this would go on to haunt them as Estonia scored through a Vassiliyev free kick with five minutes remaining.

Estonia has proven to be too much for the Serbs as they could only manage one point of a possible six against the outsiders.

"We dominated the match and had the Estonians at our feet but even if we had won this match we still would have had to win the remaining duels that await us. Our biggest mistake was at the set piece when they scored. We should have had five players in the wall not four. We lacked a little bit of tactical discipline and because of that we conceded the goal." Serbia manager Vladimir Petrovic said after the match.

In the groups other match Northern Ireland and Slovenia played out a goalless draw.

Pantelic silenced the critics with another fine display

Serbia v Estonia: Brkic - Kolarov, Biševac, Vidic, Ivanovic - Milijaš, Petrovic, Jovanovic (Žigic od 74'), Tošic, Ninkovic (Trivunovic od 14') - Pantelic.

Euro Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1 Italy	5	4	1	0	11	1	10	13
2 Slovenia	6	2	2	2	7	4	3	8
3 Serbia	6	2	2	2	8	9	-1	8
4 Estonia	5	2	1	2	7	6	1	7
5 Nthn Ireland	5	1	3	1	3	3	0	6
6 Faroe Islands	5	0	1	4	3	16	-13	1

Results

Barclays Premier League
Arsenal 0-0 Blackburn
Birmingham 2-1 Bolton
Everton 2-2 Aston Villa
Newcastle 4-1 Wolverhampton
Stoke 1-1 Chelsea
West Brom 2-1 Liverpool
West Ham 2-4 Man Utd
Wigan 0-0 Tottenham

Npower Championship
Bristol City 1-0 Doncaster
Burnley 1-2 Ipswich
Cardiff 4-1 Derby
Coventry 2-0 Watford
Crystal Palace 2-1 Barnsley
Hull 0-1 Millwall
Leeds 4-1 Nott'm Forest
Middlesbrough 3-3 Leicester
Norwich 6-0 Scunthorpe
Preston 2-1 Swansea
Reading 2-0 Portsmouth

Npower League One
Charlton 3-1 Leyton Orient
Exeter 2-1 Dag & Red
Notts County 0-2 Oldham
Rochdale 2-2 Brighton
Sheff Wed 2-1 Colchester
Southampton 3-2 MK Dons
Swindon 1-1 Hartlepool
Tranmere 0-2 Huddersfield
Yeovil 0-1 Bristol Rovers

Npower League Two
Accrington Stanley 3-1 Northampton
Burton Albion 1-4 Barnet
Bury 3-0 Oxford Utd
Chesterfield 2-0 Port Vale
Crewe 8-1 Cheltenham
Gillingham 0-0 Hereford
Rotherham 0-1 Morecambe
Shrewsbury 4-1 Macclesfield
Southend 0-0 Aldershot
Stevenage 2-1 Bradford
Torquay 2-0 Lincoln City
Wycombe 2-0 Stockport

Clydesdale Bank Premier League
Motherwell 2-1 Aberdeen
Rangers 2-3 Dundee Utd
St Johnstone 0-0 Kilmarnock
St Mirren 3-1 Hamilton

Blue Square Bet Premier
AFC Wimbledon 2-0 Barrow
Altrincham 2-2 Cambridge Utd
Bath City 1-0 Gateshead
Crawley Town 1-0 Darlington
Fleetwood Town 2-1 Tamworth
Histon 0-3 Forest Green
Kettering 1-1 York
Kidderminster 3-3 Luton
Mansfield 2-1 Rushden & D'mnds
Newport County 2-1 Grimsby
Southport 1-3 Eastbourne Boro
Wrexham 0-2 Hayes & Yeading

Scottish Football League Championship First Division
Cowdenbeath 0-1 Dunfermline
Morton 2-2 Falkirk
Partick Thistle 0-0 Queen of South
Raith Rovers 2-1 Dundee
Stirling 0-2 Ross County

Scottish Football League Championship Second Division
Ayr 1-1 East Fife
Dumbarton 2-2 Alloa
Forfar 1-1 Stenhousemuir
Livingston 0-0 Brechin
Peterhead 2-4 Airdrie Utd

Scottish Football League Championship Third Division
Albion 3-0 Arbroath
Annan Athletic 1-0 Clyde
East Stirling 3-2 Queen's Park
Montrose 1-0 Elgin
Stranraer 3-1 Berwick

Blue Square Bet North
Alfreton Town 4-0 Droylsden
Boston Utd 1-0 Worcester
Eastwood Town 3-0 AFC Telford
Gainsborough 2-1 Hyde
Gloucester 0-3 Nuneaton
Guiseley 1-0 Solihull Moors
Hinckley Utd 5-1 Blyth Spartans
Stafford Rangers 1-1 Harrogate Town
Stalybridge 2-1 Workington
Vauxhall Motors 2-1 Redditch

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	31	36	66
2 Arsenal	30	30	59
3 Chelsea	30	29	55
4 Man City	30	18	53
5 Tottenham	30	7	50
6 Liverpool	31	4	45
7 Everton	31	1	41
8 Bolton	31	0	40
9 Newcastle	31	2	39
10 Stoke	31	-2	38
11 Sunderland	30	-4	38
12 West Brom	31	-14	36
13 Fulham	30	0	35
14 Blackburn	31	-12	34
15 Birmingham	30	-12	34
16 Aston Villa	31	-14	34
17 Blackpool	30	-15	33
18 West Ham	31	-15	32
19 Wolves	31	-17	32
20 Wigan	31	-22	31

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund	28	41	65
2 Bayer Leverkusen	28	23	58
3 Bayern Munich	28	26	51
4 Hannover 96	28	0	50
5 Mainz	28	8	45
6 Nuremberg	27	6	42
7 Hamburg	28	-1	41
8 SC Freiburg	28	-4	38
9 TSG Hoffenheim	28	3	37
10 Schalke 04	27	-4	33
11 Werder Bremen	28	-16	33
12 Cologne	27	-12	32
13 FC Kaiserslautern	28	-8	31
14 Eintracht Frankfurt	27	-10	31
15 VfB Stuttgart	28	-3	30
16 St Pauli	27	-18	28
17 Wolfsburg	27	-9	27
18 Borussia M'gladbach	28	-24	23

Bayern Munich 1-0 Borussia M'gladbach
Borussia Dortmund 4-1 Hannover 96
FC Kaiserslautern 0-1 Bayer Leverkusen
Mainz 1-1 SC Freiburg
TSG Hoffenheim 0-0 Hamburg
Werder Bremen 1-1 VfB Stuttgart

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan	31	32	65
2 Inter Milan	31	21	60
3 Napoli	30	19	59
4 Udinese	30	26	56
5 Lazio	30	11	54
6 Roma	30	6	50
7 Juventus	30	7	45
8 Palermo	30	-1	43
9 Fiorentina	30	4	41
10 Bologna	31	-6	40
11 Cagliari	30	0	39
12 Genoa	30	-4	39
13 Chievo	30	-2	35
14 Parma	30	-12	32
15 Catania	30	-15	32
16 Sampdoria	30	-9	31
17 Brescia	31	-12	29
18 Cesena	30	-16	29
19 Lecce	30	-21	28
20 Bari	30	-28	17

AC Milan 3-0 Inter Milan
Brescia3-1 Bologna

Playing overnight
Napoli v Lazio
Catania v Palermo
Cesena v Fiorentina
Chievo v Sampdoria
Genoa v Cagliari Lecce v Udinese
Parma v Bari Roma v Juventus

SPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Celtic	28	44	67
2 Rangers	28	35	65
3 Hearts	30	16	58
4 Dundee Utd	30	6	49
5 Kilmarnock	31	10	46
6 Motherwell	31	-8	40
7 Inverness CT	30	1	36
8 St Johnstone	30	-16	34
9 Hibernian	29	-14	32
10 Aberdeen	30	-17	31
11 St Mirren	30	-22	25
12 Hamilton	31	-35	16

La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	30	67	81
2 Real Madrid	30	47	73
3 Valencia	30	11	57
4 Villarreal	30	17	54
5 Espanyol	29	-4	43
6 Athletic Bilbao	29	3	42
7 Sevilla	29	0	42
8 Atletico Madrid	29	3	39
9 Mallorca	29	-8	38
10 Osasuna	29	1	35
11 Sporting Gijon	30	-7	35
12 Real Sociedad	29	-9	35
13 Levante	29	-9	35
14 Getafe	30	-8	34
15 Racing	29	-15	33
16 Deportivo	29	-16	31
17 Real Zaragoza	29	-12	30
18 Malaga	29	-21	29
19 Almeria	29	-18	26
20 Hercules	29	-22	26

Getafe 2-4 Valencia
Real Madrid 0-1 Sporting Gijon
Villarreal 0-1 Barcelona

goal! Weekly

New Faces Set To Challenge Old Guard

By Niki Cook

After two rounds, the Women's Premier League looks set to provide plenty of excitement this season, with the early matches throwing up a number of unexpected results.

After dominating the competition for so many years, Box Hill United's start to the season has been uncharacteristic, with it recording a draw against Doncaster Rovers on Friday night to go with its opening round loss.

Ashburton bounced back from a heavy midweek defeat by the Emerging Athlete Program to share the points with South Melbourne Women's, while Bundoora United and Heidelberg United both made it two wins from two.

The EAP has enjoyed a perfect start to the season, winning both of its fixtures to date. On Wednesday night against Ashburton, however, it got off to the worst possible start, conceding a goal to Christine Pfeiffer in the opening minute. The goal appeared to spark the EAP into life though, as it ran rampant throughout the rest of the half, scoring five unanswered goals to take a commanding lead into the interval.

Things continued in the same vein after the break, with Claudia Dimasi adding a sixth shortly before the hour mark. Ashburton did manage to turn the tide somewhat in the last third of the match, with goals from Bonnie Barnes and Maria Patrikis making the score line more respectable.

The EAP occupies second spot on the ladder, with six points, having recorded two wins out of two.

Friday night saw WPL newcomers make the journey to Wembley Park to take on reigning premiers Box Hill United.

With Doncaster having lost its opening round, and Box Hill having a generally formidable record at its home ground, there was plenty to suggest that Rovers could be on the end of its second straight defeat.

It seemed on course for that result for much of the first half, particularly after conceding two Louisa Bisby goals in the first twenty minutes.

However, Emma Johnson pulled a goal back for the visitors five minutes before the break, giving Doncaster some hope.

Ten minutes after the interval, and scores were level, with Alexandra Amore bagging the equaliser, and Doncaster right back in the game. Natalie Exon looked to have won the game for Box Hill when she scored with ten minutes remaining, but deep into stoppage time, Amore again found the net to give Rovers its first WPL point.

On the ladder, Box Hill finds itself in the unfamiliar position of seventh, with one point to date, while Doncaster is two places further back due to its inferior goal difference.

Bundoora's Melissa Missailidis is bundled over as Altona's Kerri Little (right) and Ellu Curo go after the ball.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Two teams that have enjoyed contrasting starts to the season are Bundoora United and Altona City, with Bundoora currently topping the WPL table, and Altona languishing at the foot of the ladder. Altona had been soundly beaten 4-1 by Sandringham in its opening match, and it went down by the same score line on Saturday to Bundoora.

Things started brightly for City, with Ellvana Curo putting it ahead after 24 minutes, but Stefanie Oddo pulled the home side level five minutes before half time. After the break it was all Bundoora, with Enza Barilla giving United the lead with half an hour to go, before Linette Laverdure scored twice in twenty minutes to put the result beyond doubt.

The result sees Bundoora top the table due to its goal difference, while Altona is the only team in the competition yet to pick up a point.

Heidelberg United has also had a perfect start to the season, adding to its opening round defeat of Box Hill with a 3-1 triumph over Casey Comets on Sunday. Melanie Camilleri continued to demonstrate her goalscoring prowess, scoring directly before, and directly after half time to give United a two goal lead.

Talia Silivestros put the result beyond doubt four minutes from time, scoring against her former club, although Aleisha Piper managed a consolation goal for the home side in stoppage time.

Heidelberg joins the congestion at the top of the table, with maximum points, but it lies third on goal difference. Casey is one of four clubs with one point, and it sits eighth.

Having suffered two defeats in its opening two matches, Ashburton was keen to turn things around in its first match at Ashburton Park, when it faced South Melbourne Women's on Sunday.

Again it found the early break, with Christine Pfeiffer finding the net for the second time in five days after just twelve minutes.

South, however, kept pressing for the equaliser, which it found through Laura Spiranovic shortly before the interval. With neither side able to find a way through in the second period, the points were shared.

For Ashburton it was a valuable first point, although it still finds itself in tenth spot on the ladder. A second 1-1 draw in the space of a week means that South remains undefeated, but also still in search of its first win, and it lies sixth.

The final match of the round, between Sandringham and VCL Country, took place on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

In Round 3, Box Hill United faces a tough test as it seeks its first win, as it takes on the undefeated EAP at DISC on Wednesday night. It does, however, have a decent break before its weekend match, as it does not play until the following Monday night, when it travels to Paisley Park to take on South Melbourne Women's.

Thomay Nicolaou (right) shares a high five with Stefanie Oddo after Bundoora's fourth goal
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Doncaster Rovers hosts its first game at Anderson Park on Friday night, when it plays Sandringham, which will have to recover quickly after its Monday night match.

At 1pm on Sunday VCL Country and Casey Comets clash at a yet-to-be-determined venue, while at HC Kim Reserve, Altona City and Ashburton do battle. Monday night sees the match between South and Box Hill at Paisley Park, while at Olympic Village, two undefeated sides in Heidelberg United and Bundoora United meet.

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill United 3 (L Bisby 2 N Exon) Doncaster Rovers 3 (A Amore 2 E Johnson)

Bundoora Utd 4 (L Laverdure 2 E Barilla S Oddo)
Altona City 1 (E Curo)

Casey Comets 1 (A Piper)
Heidelberg Utd 3 (M Camilleri 2 T Silivestros)

Res:
Box Hill United 7
Doncaster Rovers 2

Bundoora Utd 1
Altona City 1

Casey Comets 4
Heidelberg Utd 0

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bundoora Utd	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Emerging AP	2	2	0	0	8	4	6
Heidelberg Utd	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Sandringham	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
VCL Country	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
South Melb	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Box Hill United	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Casey Comets	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Doncaster R	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
Ashburton	2	0	0	2	3	7	0

WPL Round 2 Fixtures

Emerging Athlete v Box Hill Utd
DISC - Pitch 1
Wed 6 Apr 11 7:30PM

Doncaster Rovers v Sandringham SC
Anderson Park
Fri 8 Apr 11 8:30PM

VCL Country v Casey Comets
Venue o Be Confirmed
Sun 10 Apr 11 1:00PM

Altona City v Ashburton
HC Kim Reserve
Sun 10 Apr 11 1:00PM

Sh Melbourne v Box Hill Utd
Paisley Park Soccef Complex
Mon 11 Apr 11 8:30PM

Heidelberg Utd v Bundoora Utd
Olympic Village
Mon 11 Apr 11 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	2	2	0	0	15	3	6
Bundoora Utd	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Altona City	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
South Melb	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Casey Comets	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
Ashburton	0				0	0	0
Emerging AP	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0
Sandringham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Doncaster R	2	0	0	2	2	11	0
Heidelberg Utd	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

Results & Ladders

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 01

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Seniors

Geelong 0 FC Clifton Hill 2, Whittlesea Ranges FC 1 Brunswick City 1, Altona City 1 Westgate 2 (A Jovicic N Addo), Altona East Phoenix 1 (B Lojanica) Moreland City 2, Ballarat Red Devils 4 Williamstown 0, Banyule City 0 Werribee City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ballarat Red Devils	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
FC Clifton Hill	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Moreland City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Westgate	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Werribee City	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Whittlesea Ranges FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Brunswick City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Altona City	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Altona East Phoenix	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Banyule City	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Geelong	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Williamstown	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Reserves

Geelong 1 FC Clifton Hill 3, Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 Brunswick City 4, Altona City 0 Westgate 1, Altona East Phoenix 2 Moreland City 1, Ballarat Red Devils 2 Williamstown 0, Banyule City 1 Werribee City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brunswick City	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
FC Clifton Hill	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Ballarat Red Devils	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Altona East Phoenix	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Werribee City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Westgate	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Moreland City	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Banyule City	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Altona City	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Whittlesea Ranges FC	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Geelong	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Williamstown	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Seniors

Doncaster Rovers 1 Dandenong City 2, Casey Comets 0 Morwell Pegasus 1, Eastern Lions 1 Box Hill United 1, Knox City 1 Malvern City 3, Noble Park Utd 2 Diamond Valley Utd 2, Heatherton Utd 0 South Springvale 1,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Malvern City	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Dandenong City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Morwell Pegasus	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
South Springvale	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Noble Park Utd	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Diamond Valley Utd	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Eastern Lions	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Box Hill United	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Doncaster Rovers	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Heatherton Utd	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Casey Comets	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Knox City	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 4 Dandenong City 1, Casey Comets 2 Morwell Pegasus 2, Eastern Lions 2 Box Hill United 2, Knox City 2 Malvern City 1, Noble Park Utd 3 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Heatherton Utd 1 South Springvale 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doncaster Rovers	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Noble Park Utd	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
South Springvale	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Knox City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Morwell Pegasus	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Casey Comets	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Eastern Lions	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Box Hill United	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Malvern City	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Heatherton Utd	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Diamond Valley Utd	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Dandenong City	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Seniors

Cairnlea 1 (A Alicevic) Avondale Heights 0, Hume Utd 0 La Trobe University 2 (D Guadagno V Skopljak), Keilor Park 2 (B Malaga G Mussel) Yarraville Glory 0, Sunbury Utd 0 Melbourne University 4 (J Bouthillier LP Correa 2 J Hawes), Sydenham Park 2 Maribyrnong Greens 1, Whittlesea Utd 2 (O Ayache 2) Geelong Rangers 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melbourne University	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Keilor Park	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
La Trobe University	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sydenham Park	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Cairnlea	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Geelong Rangers	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Whittlesea Utd	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Maribyrnong Greens	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Avondale Heights	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hume Utd	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Yarraville Glory	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sunbury Utd	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Reserves

Cairnlea 0 Avondale Heights 5, Hume Utd 3 La Trobe University 3, Keilor Park 1 (M Mohamed) Yarraville Glory 3, Sunbury Utd 1 (SR McLelland) Melbourne University 1 (AD Pedrana), Sydenham Park 3 Maribyrnong Greens 3, Whittlesea Utd 6 (H Azer 3 C Bicer K Kolege G Yildiz) Geelong Rangers 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whittlesea Utd	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
Avondale Heights	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Yarraville Glory	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Hume Utd	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
La Trobe University	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Maribyrnong Greens	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Sydenham Park	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Sunbury Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Melbourne University	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Keilor Park	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Cairnlea	1	0	0	1	0	5	0
Geelong Rangers	1	0	0	1	0	6	0

STATE SOUTH EAST 3

Seniors

Croydon City Arrows 1 (M Rivera) Old Scotch 3, Berwick City 1 Doveton 0, Mornington 2 (L Vallance M Morris-Thomas) Nunawading City FC 1, Frankston Pines 4 (R Beasley 2 P Dimcevski S Finocchiaro) Peninsula Strikers 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Scotch	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Mornington	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Berwick City	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Frankston Pines	1	0	1	0	4	4	1
Peninsula Strikers	1	0	1	0	4	4	1
North Caulfield	0				0	0	0
Fitzroy City	0				0	0	0
Kingston City	0				0	0	0
Waverley Wanderers	0				0	0	0
Nunawading City FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Doveton	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Croydon City Arrows	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Reserves

Croydon City Arrows 2 (G Brown M Gordon) Old Scotch 3, Berwick City 0 Doveton 1, Mornington 4 Nunawading City FC 3,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mornington	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Old Scotch	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Doveton	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Fitzroy City	0				0	0	0
Peninsula Strikers	0				0	0	0
North Caulfield	0				0	0	0
Waverley Wanderers	0				0	0	0
Frankston Pines	0				0	0	0
Kingston City	0				0	0	0
Nunawading City FC	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Croydon City Arrows	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Berwick City	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Seniors

FC Strathmore 1 (T Grgic) North Sunshine Eagles 1, North City Lions 2 (H Ntakirutimana Own Goal) Laverton Park 1, Northern Falcons 2 (J Bogle J Sunderland) Sporting Whittlesea FC 1, South Yarra 1 Corio 2, Essendon Utd 1 Western Eagles 2, Surf Coast 4 Westvale 4,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Corio	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
North City Lions	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Northern Falcons	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Western Eagles	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Westvale	1	0	1	0	4	4	1
Surf Coast	1	0	1	0	4	4	1
North Sunshine Eagles	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
FC Strathmore	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Laverton Park	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Essendon Utd	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
South Yarra	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Sporting Whittlesea FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Reserves

FC Strathmore 2 (P Ivas A Kranjinovic) North Sunshine Eagles 4, North City Lions 4 (D Grima 2 B Nissan 2) Laverton Park 1, Northern Falcons 4 Sporting Whittlesea FC 3, South Yarra 4 Corio 2, Essendon Utd 2 Western Eagles 0, Surf Coast 1 Westvale 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North City Lions	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
North Sunshine Eagles	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
South Yarra	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Essendon Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Northern Falcons	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Surf Coast	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sporting Whittlesea FC	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Westvale	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Corio	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
FC Strathmore	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Western Eagles	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Laverton Park	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Warragul Utd 4 (MK Lewry D Moos F Albanese D Murphy) Beaumaris 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Skye Utd 1, Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 2 Old Melburnians 2, Monash University 1 (M Goddard) Lyndale Utd 1, Brandon Park 1 Mooroolbark 3 (D Adams B Adams 2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Warragul Utd	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Mooroolbark	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Old Melburnians	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Hampton Park USFC	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Lyndale Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Monash University	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Old Camberwell Grammar	0				0	0	0
Skye Utd	0				0	0	0
Sandringham SC	0				0	0	0
Springvale City	0				0	0	0
Brandon Park	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Beaumaris	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Reserves

Warragul Utd 0 Beaumaris 1, Old Camberwell Grammar 4 Skye Utd 1, Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 0 Old Melburnians 5, Monash University 3 (J Corrigan J Kong V Krunic) Lyndale Utd 1, Brandon Park 0 Mooroolbark 4 (S Topali K Coe AW Holly 2),

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Melburnians	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Mooroolbark	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Monash University	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Beaumaris	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Skye Utd	0				0	0	0
Old Camberwell Grammar	0				0	0	0
Springvale City	0				0	0	0
Sandringham SC	0				0	0	0
Warragul Utd	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Lyndale Utd	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Brandon Park	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Hampton Park USFC	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Bell Park 1 (E Lawrence) Melbourne Tornado 3 (A El Mujtaba Salem D Tonc 2), Elwood City 2 West Preston 3 (T Alessandrino J Tsaboukas 2), Hoppers Crossing 3 Lalor Utd 0, Moreland Utd 1 Northern Roosters 0, Plenty Valley Lions 2 (C Nikolaidis D Stojanovski) Epping City 1, Upfield 2 Melbourne City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hoppers Crossing	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Melbourne Tornado	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Upfield	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
West Preston	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Plenty Valley Lions	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Moreland Utd	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Elwood City	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Epping City	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Northern Roosters	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bell Park	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Melbourne City	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Lalor Utd	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Reserves

Bell Park 2 Melbourne Tornado 0, Hoppers Crossing 0 Lalor Utd 1, Moreland Utd 1 Northern Roosters 2 (A Yilmaz C Yavuz), Plenty Valley Lions 2 Epping City 4, Upfield 3 Melbourne City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Epping City	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Bell Park	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Upfield	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Northern Roosters	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Lalor Utd	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Elwood City	0				0	0	0
West Preston	0				0	0	0
Melbourne City	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Moreland Utd	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Hoppers Crossing	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Plenty Valley Lions	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Melbourne Tornado	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

: Monbulk 1 Old Carey 2 (R Stanner M Hargitay), Ashburton United 1 (S Walshe) Casey Kings 5, Caulfield United Cobras SC 3 (O Tufan 2 J Eugeniou) Seaford Utd 2, Endeavour Utd 0 Riversdale 1, Keysborough 1 (M Roberts) Boroondara Eagles 2, Bayside Argonauts 5 (D Dainty 3 R Searle P Mccaig) Uni. of Melbourne 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayside Argonauts	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Casey Kings	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Caulfield United Cobras	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Boroondara Eagles	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Old Carey	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Riversdale	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Seaford Utd	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Keysborough	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Monbulk	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Endeavour Utd	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ashburton United	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
Uni. of Melbourne	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

Reserves

Monbulk 3 Old Carey 0, Ashburton United 7 Casey Kings 0, Caulfield United Cobras SC 3 (N Talidis V Patsias D Khassapov) Seaford Utd 0, Endeavour Utd 2 Riversdale 1, Keysborough 2 (N Talevski) Boroondara Eagles 2, Bayside Argonauts 0 Uni. of Melbourne 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton United	1	1	0	0	7	0	3
Uni. of Melbourne	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Caulfield United Cobras	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Monbulk	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Endeavour Utd	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Keysborough	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Boroondara Eagles	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Riversdale	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Old Carey	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Seaford Utd	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Bayside Argonauts	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Casey Kings	1	0	0	1	0	7	0

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Balmoral FC 5 (H Ikanovic 5) Essendon Royals 6 (S Mungherli 2 A Dunlop M Collina A Sirin 2), Brimbank Stallions 3 (E Anei 2 G Tenaglia) Moreland Wolves 1, Heidelberg Stars 3 Mill Park 0, Meadow Park Eagles 4 (D Magro L Rinaldi 2 A Adam) Darebin Utd 2, Watsonia Heights 3 Brunswick Zebras 5, Melton Phoenix FC 1 (A Godfrey) Youth Utd 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Stars	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Brunswick Zebras	1	1	0	0	5	3	3
Meadow Park Eagles	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Brimbank Stallions	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Essendon Royals	1	1	0	0	6	5	3
Youth Utd	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Balmoral FC	1	0	0	1	5	6	0
Melton Phoenix FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Watsonia Heights	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
Darebin Utd	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Moreland Wolves	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Mill Park	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Reserves

Balmoral FC 3 (M Hot 2 A Hassan) Essendon Royals 5, Brimbank Stallions 1 Moreland Wolves 4, Heidelberg Stars 11 Mill Park 1, Meadow Park Eagles 1 (L Guida) Darebin Utd 1, Watsonia Heights 4 Brunswick Zebras 1, Melton Phoenix FC 3 Youth Utd 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Stars	1	1	0	0	11	1	3
Watsonia Heights	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Moreland Wolves	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Essendon Royals	1	1	0	0	5	3	3
Melton Phoenix FC	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Meadow Park Eagles	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Darebin Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Youth Utd	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Balmoral FC	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
Brimbank Stallions	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Brunswick Zebras	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Mill Park	1	0	0	1	1	11	0

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Baxter 0 Middle Park FC 5, Collingwood City 2 (E Papageorgiou I Skukan) Brighton 0, East Bentleigh 1 Noble Park 3, Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Whitehorse Utd 3, Rowville Eagles 5 (I Skorupski J Tsung M Voinea A Sabau 2) White Star Dandenong 2, Old Brighton Grammarians 5 Eltham Redback FC 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Middle Park FC	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Old Brighton Grammarians	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Rowville Eagles	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Whitehorse Utd	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Noble Park	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Collingwood City	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
East Bentleigh	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Brighton	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
White Star Dandenong	1	0	0	1	2	5	0
Old Trinity Grammarians	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Eltham Redback FC	1	0	0	1	1	5	0
Baxter	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

Reserves

Baxter 3 (S Drew 2 MP Van Schajik) Middle Park FC 2, Collingwood City 2 Brighton 2, East Bentleigh 1 Noble Park 1, Old Trinity Grammarians 4 Whitehorse Utd 1, Rowville Eagles 4 (R Mihailovici K Hasanzada P Badalita J Mardale) White Star Dandenong 2, Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Eltham Redback FC 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Trinity Grammarians	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Rowville Eagles	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Baxter	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Old Brighton Grammarians	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brighton	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Collingwood City	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
East Bentleigh	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Noble Park	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Middle Park FC	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Eltham Redback FC	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
White Star Dandenong	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Whitehorse Utd	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

State & Provi Round 2 Fixtures

All matches to be played on Saturday 9th April with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2

Brunswick City v Altona East Phoenix
Dunstan Reserve
FC Clifton Hill v Banyule City
Kevin Bartlett Res
Moreland City v Geelong
Campbell Reserve
Werribee City v Ballarat Red Devils
Galvin Park Reserve
Williamstown v Altona City
JT Gray Reserve
Westgate v Whittlesea Ranges FC
Ardeer Reserve Sat 9 Apr 11 7:00PM

State SE 2

Dandenong City v Casey Comets
Frank Holohan Soccer Res
Diamond Valley Utd v South Springvale
Partington Flats
Heatherton Utd v Doncaster Rovers
Bosnia & Herzegovina Sports Centre
Morwell Pegasus v Knox City
Ronald Reserve
Box Hill United v Noble Park Utd
Wembley Park
Malvern City v Eastern Lions
Kooyong Reserve No. 3

State NW 3

Avondale Heights v Sydenham Park
Doyle Street Reserve
Geelong Rangers v Cairnlea
Myers Reserve
La Trobe University v Whittlesea Utd
Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field
Maribyrnong Greens v Sunbury Utd
Skinner Reserve
Yarraville Glory v Hume Utd
McIvor Reserve
Melbourne University v Keilor Park
Princes Park Oval #1

State SE 3

Fitzroy City v Croydon City Arrows
Fairfield Park
Peninsula Strikers v Berwick City
Centenary Park
Nunawading City FC v Frankston Pines
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Old Scotch v Mornington
H.A. Smith Reserve
Doveton v North Caulfield
Waratah Reserve Sun 10 Apr 3:00PM
Kingston City v Waverley Wanderers
The Grange Reserve Mon 11 Apr 11 8:30PM

Provi NW 1

Corio v Northern Falcons
Hume Reserve, Geelong North
North City Lions v South Yarra
Wallace Reserve
North Sunshine Eagles v Essendon Utd
Larissa Reserve
Western Eaglesv Surf Coast
Polish Sports & Rec Centre.
Westvale v Laverton Park
McKechnie Reserve
Sporting Whittlesea FC v FC Strathmore
RGC Cook Reserve

Provi SE 1

Beaumaris v Skye Utd
Beaumaris Reserve
Brandon Park v Hampton Park United
Sparrows Football Club Freeway Reserve
Lyndale Utd v Mooroolbark
Lyndale Secondary College
Old Camberwell Grammar v Springvale City
Deepdene Park
Old Melburnians v Warragul Utd
Robert Menzies Res
Sandringham SC v Monash University
RJ Sillitoe Reserve

Provi NW 2

Epping City v Upfield
Duffy Street Reserve
Lalor Utd v Bell Park
HR Uren Reserve
Melbourne City v Moreland Utd
Edwards Reserve
Melbourne Tornado v Elwood City
Newmarket Reserve
West Preston v Plenty Valley Lions
Oulton Reserve
Northern Roosters v Hoppers Crossing
Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 2

Riversdale v Bayside Argonauts
Frog Hollow Reserve
Ashburton United v Endeavour Utd
Ashburton Park
Boroondara Eagles v Caulfield United Cobras
Macleay Park
Casey Kings v Old Carey
Betula Park
Seaford Utd v Monbulk
North Seaford Reserve
Uni. of Melbourne v Keysborough
Princes Park Oval #2

Provi NW 3

Darebin Utd v Melton Phoenix FC
Mayer Park
Essendon Royals v Brimbank Stallions
Reggio Calabria Club
Mill Park v Watsonia Heights
Findon Reserve
Youth Utd v Heidelberg Stars
Seth Raistrick Res.
Moreland Wolves v Meadow Park Eagles
Reddish Reserve
Brunswick Zebras v Balmoral FC
Balfe Park

Provi SE 3

East Bentleigh v Rowville Eagles
Bailey Reserve
Whitehorse Utd v Old Brighton Grammarians
Terrara Park
White Star Dandenong v Old Trinity Gramm
Greaves Reserve
Brighton v Baxter
Dendy Park
Noble Park v Middle Park FC
Norman Luth Reserve
Eltham Redbacks FC v Collingwood City
Eltham North Res Sat 9 Apr 11 7:00PM

Victorian State & Provisional League Scoreboard brought to you by

State And Provi Leagues Commence

By Michal Skrodsky

Well football fans Round 1 has come and gone with some great football at local grounds including some great cevaps/kebabs/souvs/kranskys at venues all over Victoria.

Last week I started from the bottom and worked my way down, this week I think we'll start with State 2 NW.

The biggest result came not in Melbourne but in the historic mining town of Ballarat where the Red Devils dished out a footballing lesson to Williamstown, maybe the Willy boys made a weekend of the trip and forgot they had a match to play!

Ballarat would be a great addition to the VPL as they'd add a great away trip for clubs, so this reporter wishes the Red Devils all the best!

Ballarat incidently were the only home side to win this week in State 2 NW. State 2 SE saw Malvern City have the best win proving this reported who stated they'd struggle with a 3-1 away win at Knox City. Noble Park United and Diamond Valley also played out an entertaining 2-2 draw.

State 3 NW saw Melbourne Uni have a great 4-0 away win against Sunbury United and take an early lead in this league. La Trobe also won away 2-0 against Hume United making it a good weekend for the uni teams.

Sydenham knocked off Maribyrnong Greens 2-1 in a match which would have probably attracted a big crowd down at Keilor Lodge Reserve.

Match of the round in State 3 SE was easily a replay of the Frankston derby which saw the Pines host a thrilling 4-4 draw with bitter rivals Peninsula Strikers.

This result is a huge form reversal for the Pines who only 7 days ago lost 5-0 to the Strikers in the Cup, well done Pines.

Old Scotch sit on top as I write this after a 3-1 away win against the Arrows of Croydon City but please note the North Caulfield vs Waverley Wanderers result has not come in yet and Kingston City host Fitzroy Monday night.

Down to Provisional 1 NW which saw the mighty Western Eagles go behind 0-1 away to Essendon United but they brought the crunch and took the points in a spirited 2-1 away victory at Aberfeldie Park.

This result was one of four 2-1 results which sees no clear leader after Round 1, but the match of the round has to go to the epic battle that was played out on the Surf Coast.

The Coasties blew a 3-1 half time lead and drew 4-4 with Westvale. Provisional 1 SE saw Warragul United take top spot after a 4-0 win over Beaumaris. Maybe the Beauy boys also had a night out in Warragul the night before!

In all seriousness these country teams have shown that they are no joke and at home will be formidable sides to beat.

Mooroolbark had a good 3-1 win over the Armenian heroes from Brandon Park with the Adams boys getting all the goals for the Barkers.

This reporter must also mention that the Spingvale City vs Sandringham result has not been posted yet. Provisional 2 NW has Hoppers Crossing sitting at the top after a 3-0 home win against Lalor United, Plenty Valley also had an upset win vs Epping City who looked like the team to beat after a great pre-season. Melbourne Tornado also had a solid 3-1 win down the Princes Freeway against Bell Park.

Provisional 2 SE saw some big results with Casey Kings crunching Ashburton 5-1 in front of Ashburton's home fans and the Bayside Argonauts spanking the University of Melbourne 5-0 at home. That makes it 13 goals scored and 0 against for the Argonauts in 2 weeks as last week they smashed Provi 3 side East Bentleigh all the way to Neptune with a 8-0 win.

Provisional 3 NW wins the league of the round after producing 35 goals!! Round 1 included some belting perfomances including Brunswick Zebras 5-3 away over Watsonia Heights, Meadow Park 4-2 at home to Darebin United and match of the round in Victoria, Balmoral (the artists formerly known as Brimbank City) going down 5-6 to the Essendon Royals.

Now, that scoreline in itself is pretty amazing but get this, all five goals for Balmoral came from Husmir Ikanovic.

Furthermore, Essendon were up 4-1 at half time, Mr Ikanovic then scored to in the 48th minute, one minute later he completes his hatrick to make it 4-3, then just 60 more seconds pass before Husmir Ikanovic scored again levelling the scores at 4-4!!

Heidelberg Stars opened its season account with a 3-0 win over Mill Park and now heads the table in Provisional 3 NW. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Let's hope these kind of scores continue as it will definately bring in the fans and get the turnstiles turning at these Provi 3 clubs.

Not to be outdone by their NW rivals, Provi 3 SE also provided it's fair share of goals with 27 in total. Including 3 teams giving out high 5s.

Middle Park gave one to Baxter up high 5-0, Rowville Eagles (legends of Bucharest) dished a high 5 to the side to the Cracovian partisans, White Star Dandenong 5-2 and the Old Brighton Grammarians gave a high five to the other side to the Eltham Redbacks 5-1. Noble Park tried to give a high 5 down below to East Bentleigh but were too slow and only won 3-1.

All in all a great weekend of lower league football. We won't know the real picture until about round 6 or 7 but even from this weeks results we can see some teams have made a clear statement.

Play of the week definately goes to Husmir Ikanovic from Balmoral for not only scoring 5 goals in one game, but for scoring 3 of them in 3 minutes.

I'd like to sign off by encouraging everyone to get to their local club and support them with boisterous, loud, proud and passionate support.

Crunchalor!

Mirabella Cup Enters 3rd Rd

By Robert Di Fabio

The Mirabella Cup is now entering the third round of the innovative knock-out style competition. With an abundance of teams sent their marching orders in the preliminary rounds, the competition for Victorian supremacy is beginning heat up. The draw for the third round took place at the FFV headquarters last Wednesday night with a handful of fixtures leaving fans with much to anticipate in the upcoming weeks.

With only four clubs remaining in each region, the third round is effectively the last round of the first stage of the competition. Each zone will have two teams qualify for the second stage in which they will be drawn with the seeded VPL and State League One outfits.

Due to an imbalance in the number of teams that entered into each region of the cup, some clubs have already qualified for the second stage of the tournament. These include Mooroolbark (Prov 1) & Waverly Wanderers (State 3) from the Eastern Zone, Bayside Argonauts (Prov 2) & Kingston City (State 3) from the South-East Zone and Tatura (Regional) and Twin City (Regional). There are still 28 teams (17 State League, 9 Provisional League and 1 Regional) striving to win a place in the next stage of the competition.

It will be a dream come true for many clubs within the Victorian football fraternity, particularly those teams on the lower spectrum of the Victorian pyramid.

The team that has been awarded the home fixture will have a preference on when the third round tie will take place. Due to the commencement of the league season over the weekend, the Mirabella Cup games will now take place as mid-week fixtures. Clubs have a choice from the following dates in April: Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th April.

The third round represents an exciting contingent of games for many clubs, players and fans around Victoria. With the allure of being drawn against the heavy-weights of Victorian football, there is much at steak given this fantasy is only one victory away. Some clubs may imply that cup football is a second priority to the league games on the weekend, however make no mistake these fixtures illustrate a defining moment when reminiscing about the season that has been.

The Northern Zone represents the Provisional League clubs plying their trade against their superior State League outfits. The two city clubs will be battling it out as Epping City (Prov 2) will be hosting Banyule City (State 2), a team which held on to dear life in a bid to avoid relegation last season. Three divisions separate them on the football tree; however cup football can sometimes be kind to the lower division teams, will this be evident on this occasion?

In the other game, the newly promoted Heidelberg Stars (Prov 3) will be taking on La Trobe University (State 3). Can the Stars cause a massive upset or will the Uni boys stroll their way into the next stage?

The Southern area will see an all out State League affair between the four remaining clubs. A thrilling prospect for everyone affiliated with these clubs.

Dandenong City (State 2) will be travelling to Mornington (State 3) in a bid to knock off their State League counter-parts. Meanwhile South Springvale (State 2) will be playing host to Peninsula Strikers (State 3), a team which has shown some promising form in recent weeks.

Moving over to the West side of Melbourne, Williamstown (State 3) will fancy their chances when they travel away to lower league opposition North Sunshine Eagles (Prov 1). While Keilor Park (State 3) whom barely missed promotion by a single point last year will want to turn their fortunes around by illustrating a strong display against Westgate (State 2).

The Central region will see Yaraville Glory (State 3) start favourites against the Old Melbournians (Prov 1). Whilst a rare occurrence is present as two Provisional League outfits face one another at this stage of the cup, South Yarra (Prov 1) will be hosting Middle Park (Prov 3).

The North-East Zone will see newly promoted State League outfit Old Scotch (State 3) battle for supremacy against recently merged Box Hill United (State 2). The other fixture pits State League Two rivals Doncaster Rovers and Ashburton in what is likely to be a hotly contested match; both teams will be looking to gain early bragging rights over their league counter-parts.

The North-Western suburbs of Melbourne will witness Melbourne Tornado (Prov 2) attempt the ambitious assignment of facing well renowned Moreland City (State 2) on their turf. While Moreland Wolves will be looking to continue their rich vein of form in the cup by hosting highly fancied outfit Hume United (State 3). Can the two Moreland representatives advance through to the second stage?

In the Wimmera South Coast region Geelong (State 2) will fancy their chances of advancing when they face Forest Rangers (Regional). A division of class should be imminent in this fixture. In the other game, Corio whom narrowly missed promotion to State League Three last season will be attempting to illustrate why they are a force to be reckoned with when they face Ballarat Red Devils (State 2), an outfit which has demonstrated a string of consistent well balanced performances over the years.

The third and final round of the opening stage in the Mirabella Cup is an exhilarating time for many Victorian football fans. The beauty, glamour and traditions of cup football have been evident throughout the opening rounds of the competition.

With the re-establishment of cup football in Victoria, many football clubs envisaged the hallucination of playing against the powerhouse clubs in Victoria- namely Melbourne Knights, South Melbourne, Green Gully, Oakleigh Cannons, Dandenong Thunder and Heidelberg United to name a few. One more victory and the impossible dream will become reality.

3rd Round Draw

Northern:
Epping City (P2) v Banyule City (S2)
Heidelberg Stars (P3) v La Trobe University (S3)

Eastern:
Mooroolbark (P1) & Waverly Wanderers (S3) have qualified for the next stage.

Southern:
Mornington (S3) v Dandenong City (S2)
South Springvale (S2) v Peninsula Strikers (S3)

Western:
North Sunshine Eagles (P1) v Williamstown (S3)
Keilor Park (S3) v Westgate (S2)

Central:
Yarraville Glory (S3) v Old Melbournians (P1)
South Yarra (P1) v Middle Park FC (P3)

North-East:
Old Scotch (S3) v Box Hill United (S2)
Doncaster Rovers (S2) v Ashburton (P2)

North-West:
Moreland City (S2) v Melbourne Tornado (P2)
Moreland Wolves (P3) v Hume United (S3)

South-East:
Bayside Argonauts (P2) & Kingston City (S3) have qualified for the next stage.

Wimmera South Coast:
Forest Rangers (R) v Geelong (S2)
Corio (P1) v Ballarat Red Devils (S2)

Tatura (R) & Twin City (R) has already qualified for the next stage.

SHORT PASSES

Kellaway heads back to UK

Melbourne Victory Football Club wishes to advise that midfielder, Geoff Kellaway will return to the United Kingdom this weekend after his contract with the club expired on March 31.

Kellaway made nine appearances during the 2010/11 Hyundai A-League season, including a place in the starting XI for Melbourne Victory's 3 - 0 win over Brisbane Roar in September – a result that proved to be the Queensland side's only defeat during a campaign that took them to the Premiership/Championship double.

Brisbane CEO Steps Down

The Brisbane Roar Football Club announced that CEO Peter McLennan has decided to leave the Club at the end of April following a transitional period in which he will assist Football Federation Australia (FFA) who has formally resumed the licence.

Portsmouth Trial For Scott Neville

Perth Glory young gun Scott Neville will commence a two-week trial with English Championship side Portsmouth FC from April 2nd. Neville heads to Portsmouth with the blessing and encouragement of Perth Glory Coach Ian Ferguson and Olyroos Coach Aurelio Vidmar, who has excused the 22 year old from the first training camp in mid-April.

Gold Coast Supportive Of FFA Strategy

GOLD Coast United CEO, Clive Mensink, reaffirmed his club's support of Football Federation Australia and the Hyundai A-League, refuting recent media reports suggesting the club lacked confidence in the competition's viability.

The United chief said his club was fully behind FFA's governance and also called for football supporters everywhere to get behind the game.

"I think it's important that we set the record straight and make it clear that we have every faith in FFA and the Hyundai A-League," Mr Mensink said.

Olyroos to face Yemen

The Olyroos have been drawn against Yemen in the second round of the Asian qualifiers for the 2012 London Olympics men's football tournament.

The Olyroos are scheduled to play the home leg of the tie on 19 June 2011 and the away leg on the 23 June 2011 with venues and kick-off times to be confirmed.

2012 London Olympic Games – Asian Qualification Second Round Matches
Qatar vs India, Iraq vs Iran, Bahrain vs Thailand, Australia vs Yemen, Japan vs Kuwait, Syria vs Turkmenistan, DPR Korea vs UAE, Korea Republic vs Jordan, Uzbekistan vs Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia vs Vietnam, China vs Oman, Lebanon vs Malaysia

Kemp Knee Surgery

Melbourne Victory defender Matthew Kemp underwent arthroscopy on his right knee, which most likely rules him out for the remainder of the AFC Champions League group stage.

SL1 Kicks Off With Plenty Of Goals

ONLY Fawkner Blues failed to score in the five matches of the opening round played on the weeken with 15 goals being scored for an average of 3 goals per game. Two players were shown red cards with Berkan Sakaci of Southern Stars and Frank Sarratore becoming the first players to see the dreaded red card. Overall the standard was quite good and fans have plenty to look forward in round two.

Opening day SL1 action between Langwarrin and North Geelong Warriors. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

PORT MELBOURNE 3 SOUTHERN STARS 1

Port Melbourne and Southern Stars kicked of the 2011 first division season in an action packed game on Friday night in front of a healthy attendance.

These two teams set the scene for the rest of the league to follow with 4 goals being scored in this match. Port was the better of the two sides getting on top of the visitors to SS Anderson Reserve with a 3-1 victory. It was a deserved 3 points for the Sharks as they played the better football. Southern Stars is a big strong team, and was in this game well into injury time.

The home team struck first through captain / coach Eric Vassiliaidis whose free lit up Anderson Reserve. The Stars levelled proceedings through Mark Leech just after the break following a corner, but Ryan O'Hare restored Port's lead midway through the second half. It was tough going for the rest of the match with 5 players getting booked and a red card to Berkan Sakaci. The game was sealed in Port Melbourne's favour with an injury time goal from Nichalas Kalambokis.

PASCOE VALE 1 SUN GEORGE CROSS 2

On Saturday afternoon Sunshine George Cross provided a surprise 2-1 victory over the fancied Pascoe Vale side at Hosken Reserve. After a scoreless first half that was mainly dominated by the home team, Sunshine opened the scoring through Nicholas Scerri who rounded the keeper to slot home from an acute angle. The Georgies increased their lead after 77 minutes when Reggie Davani brilliantly lobbed the Pascoe Vale keeper to make it 2-0.

The home side was given a life line after 82 minutes when Sunshine goalkeeper Mario Roza fluffed a regular attempt to catch a long range centre, allowing the ball to go through his fingers to put Pascoe Vale back in the game. Roza redeemed himself with only 3 minutes to go when he denied Pascoe Vale an equaliser by finger tipping a goal bound header by Joseph Youssef over the cross-bar. Pascoe Vale's day ended on a sour note when defender Frank Sarratore was sent off for an off the ball incident that was spotted by the referee's assistant.

LANGWARRIN 3 NORTH GEELONG 1

Gus McLeod's hard running and very fit side secured their first points of the season with an easy 3-1 win over visitors North Geelong at Lawton Park. Langwarrin ruled the roost in this game from start to finish and should have scored a few more than the 3 goals they managed to convert. All three goals for Langwarrin came within the space of 9 minutes, either side of half time to knocked set the Geelong side back on their heels. North Geelong performed reasonably well considering their midweek problems, that left them without a coach for this game. Caleb Nicholes opened the scoring for the home team on the stroke of half time with Boris Olvin adding to the score after 48 minutes. Alan Pratt made it 3-1 after 54 minutes to end this game as a contest. To their credit North Geelong kept plugging away and scored a consolation goal with 9 minutes remaining.

ALTONA MAGIC 1 FAWKNER BLUES 0

Having been relegated from the V.P.L., Altona Magic desperately wanted to make a winning start to their 2011 season and did so over the Fawkner Blues, through a solitary goal scored by Pece Siveski scored on the half hour mark. It was far from an easy victory for Altona with the Blues giving as good as they got. The visitors to Paisley Park were the more threatening team in the opening half and went close several times. Altona had their chances with Schwagler denying he home side taking the lead. Fawkner pushed up in search of an equaliser in the second half, but it was Magic who looked capable of adding to their goal lead with quick counter attacks. It looks like both these sides are in for a good season.

PRESTON LIONS 1 WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 2

The northern suburbs derby attracted a crowd of around 600 spectators to BT Connor Reserve in a game that saw the Whittlesea Zebras take all 3 points. A lot more was expected from this Preston side, but on this performance most of the Preston fans at this match left disappointed. Whittlesea on the other hand were bright and sprightly and deserved the win. After a scoreless first half it was prodigal son John Sapazovski who gave the Lions fans something to cheer when he scored on his first game back with the Lions. The Zebras was good value for money up to that stage and the goal stirred them into action. Resa Housazni levelled the scores and with 15 minutes remaining Lively Vinny Faherty put the Zebras in front. It took some good saves from the Preston keeper and the cross-bar that denied Whittlesea from adding to the score line.

FC BULLEEN LIONS v WESTERN SUBURBS

The final game of round one is being played on Monday night.

SL1 RESULTS

Port Melbourne 3 (E Vassiliadis N Kalambokis R O'Hare)
Southern Stars 1 (M- Leech)

Altona Magic 1
Fawkner Blues 0

Pascoe Vale 1
Sunshine George Cross 2

Langwarrin 3 (A Pratt B Ovcin C Nicholes)
North Geelong Warriors 1 (J Patti)

Preston Lion 1
Whittlesea Zebras 2

U21:
Port Melbourne 0
Southern Stars 1

Altona Magic 2
Fawkner Blues 3

Pascoe Vale 7
Sunshine George Cross 2

Langwarrin 2
North Geelong Warriors 1

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Langwarrin	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
George Cross	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Altona Magic	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
W Zebras	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bulleen Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W Suburbs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preston Lions	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Pascoe Vale	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Fawkner Blues	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
North Geelong	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Southern Stars	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

SL1 Round 2 Fixtures

Port Melbourne v Nh Geelong Warriors
SS Anderson Reserve
Fri 8 Apr 11 8:30PM

Pascoe Vale v Preston Lions
Hosken Reserve
Sat 9 Apr 3:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras v Altona Magic
Epping Soccer Stadium
Sun 10 Apr 11 3:00PM

Fawkner Blues v FC Bulleen Lions
CB Smith Reserve
Sun 10 Apr 11 3:00PM

Sunshine George Cross v Sthern Stars
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 10 Apr 11 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Langwarrin
Ralph Reserve
Sun 10 Apr 11 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pascoe Vale	1	1	0	0	7	2	3
Fawkner Blues	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Langwarrin	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Southern Stars	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
W Suburbs	0				0	0	0
Bulleen Lions	0				0	0	0
Preston Lions	0				0	0	0
W Zebras	0				0	0	0
Altona Magic	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
North Geelong	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Port Melbourne	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
George Cross	1	0	0	1	2	7	0

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Pascoe Vale wrap up 2nd league title in style

By Peter Parthimos & Matthew Montgomery

Fitzroy 4-6 Brimbank

UPDATE: Brimbank FC clinch all 3 points against the champions Fitzroy FC in a must win clash for BFC. Fitzroy, last seasons champs, have been in somewhat of a form slump since coming off their ground breaking win against league leaders Pascoe Vale in round 18. And although they were missing influential keeper Dianoosh, Brimbank played like a top 8 team without the services of Jason Barrientos as new recruit Arin scored 3. An excellent result in the end, 6 – 4 to Brimbank.

Pacoe Vale 17-3 Mickleham FC

UPDATE: In a clash that was billed to be a hard fought encounter, Pascoe Vale FC slaughtered Mickleham FC 17 – 3 with young gun Richie Ferguson kicking a double hat trick and Da silva with 4. The entire PVFC team dominated from start to finish as they outplayed an uninspired Mickleham outfit. Surely the title is safely in the hands of the black and white now. Metropolitan can not possibly win it from here. As for Mickleham, they are ~~sitting in 8th position and are not out~~ of trouble as relegation looms if they don't perform in the final round of the season next week.

Metropolitan 6-3 Nth Melbourne

UPDATE: Metropolitan FC continue to build up for a strong tilt at FOz cup glory by defeating top four rivals Nth Melbourne FC in a high quality clash. Although Metro cannot win the league, they can gain even more confidence by defeating the new Champions Pascoe Vale FC on Sunday's catch up clash. And if any other team could take it to the champions it can be this talented Metropolitan side, well led by manager Alija Redzepovic. All credit to Metro as they looked like the more determined side looking to steady their campaign and let the rest of the league know that they are back! 6 – 3 win to MFC.

CONGRATULATIONS
"Pascoe Vale FC"
2010-11 LEGEA
V-LEAGUE PREMIERS
adding silverware to go along with
2009/10 Premiership,
2009/10 FOz Cup Winners
2010 FOz Cup Winners

CHAMPIONE! CHAMPIONE! Pascoe Vale FC V-League winners 2010-11 as shown by captain Andre Caro.

CF Brunswick's Munya Nyadzayo was again showing why he is one of the leagues most in form strikers as he scores in his 9th consecutive game.

Emir Ameti (4) and manager Admir Kablar (5) have been a major driving force behind Brimbank FC's impressive late season form.

FC Collingwood's Cameron Holmes tries to contain Essendon's Alexander Stevanovic as he aims to capture his 5th consecutive top goal scorers title.

Hume FC 5-4 Ashburton FC

UPDATE: Hume FC come from behind to defeat Ashburton FC what was a physical clash between the 5th and 4th ranked teams in the league. It was a heated affair with 4 yellow cards and a red that saw Hume defender Fikri Bozdogan sent off in the dying minutes, in which the Hume squad's desire to win was tested. Although Ashburton did not have their first choice squad selected, they managed to put in a lively performance and appeared they could go on with the job when leading 3 - 1 at half time. But it wasn't to be with 3 goals to Husseini & singles to Resit & Fikri was enough to shatter the Greens at Full Time 5 – 4.

Prahran 3-3 Brunswick

UPDATE: Prahran and Brunswick displayed a fine display, purely for the intensity, desperation and determination of both squads. There was a lot riding on the result of this match as the winner got closer and closer to avoiding the relegation battles and a chance to play in the cup playoff. It was end to end clash with no rest as Maxi Avram was welcomed back to the Prahran side, combining well with Ahmed Muktar with 3 goals between them. CF Brunswick took the lead through another fine display by front man Munya Nyadzayo, only for FC Prahran to claw their way back into the match. A quality which has been missing in this squad at times. With missed chances by both sides to take the points in the dying minuites, it made for an edge of your seat ending as both teams shared the points 3 – 3 in the end.

Essendon 4-3 Collingwood

UPDATE: The last clash on the card saw FC Essendon come out to face relegated FC Collingwood. Looking at the line-ups before the match one would have thought that Essendon would be in line to take the three points with the long awaited return of playmaker Ivan Pajic. And in the end it was a well deserved brace from Pajic which proved the difference which handed Collingwood their 17th loss of the season and ensure FC Essendon survive another season in the amazing premiership. Although Collingwoods most valuable player Cameron Holmes tried to prevent another defeat it was a 4 – 3 win in the end to Essendon.

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V-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	20	18	1	1	175	66	109	55
2 Metropolitan FC	20	15	1	4	161	83	78	46
3 Nth Melbourne FC	21	14	0	7	113	83	30	42
4 Ashburton FC	21	12	2	7	124	111	13	38
5 Hume FC	21	11	3	7	111	91	20	36
6 FC Essendon	21	9	3	9	114	132	-18	30
7 Fitzroy FC	21	8	2	11	91	119	-28	26
8 Mickleham FC	21	7	2	12	118	135	-17	23
9 FC Prahran	21	7	1	13	96	129	-33	22
10 CF Brunswick	21	6	2	13	87	128	-41	20
11 Brimbank FC	21	6	0	15	83	120	-37	18
12 FC Collingwood	21	3	1	17	67	143	-76	10

Round 21 Results Wed March 30th

- 6:30 Fitroy FC v Brimbank FC 4-6
- 7:15 Pascoe Vale FC v Mickleham FC 17-3
- 8:00 Metropolitan FC v Nth Melbourne FC 6-3
- 8:45 Hume FC v Ashburton FC 5-4
- 9:30 FC Prahran v CF Brunswick 3-3
- 10:15 FC Essendon v FC Collingwood 4-3

Round 22 Clashes Wed April 6th

- 6:30 Fitzroy FC v FC Collingwood
- 7:15 Metropolitan FC v Brimbank FC
- 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v Nth Melbourne FC
- 8:45 Mickleham FC v Ashburton FC
- 9:30 Hume FC v CF Brunswick
- 10:15 FC Prahran v FC Essendon

V-League Top Scorers

1. A. Stevanovic	45 Goals
2. J. Da Silva	37 Goals
3. A. Redzepovic	37 Goals

V-League Catch Up Round Sun April 3rd

- 8:30 (Round 20) Pascoe Vale FC v Metropolitan FC

State League Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Melbourne	18	15	0	3	88	54	34	45
2 FC Balwyn	17	10	2	5	115	80	35	32
3 FC Footscray	18	9	1	8	105	83	22	28
4 Albert Park FC	18	9	1	8	107	107	0	28
5 FC Geelong	18	8	0	10	84	82	2	24
6 FC Carlton	18	7	1	10	100	100	0	22
7 Melb Uni FC	18	7	0	11	73	104	-31	21
8 Doncaster FC	16	6	0	10	92	117	-25	18
9 Bentleigh FC	18	5	0	13	96	135	-39	15
10 Elsternwick FC *	17	9	1	7	95	93	2	10*

State League Championship Season Round 18 Sun Mar 20th

- 7:40 FC Footscray v Doncaster FC 5 - 7
- 8:20 FC Melbourne v Albert Park FC 4 - 6
- 9:00 FC Geelong v Bentleigh FC 7 - 4
- 9:40 Melbourne Uni FC v FC Balwyn 5 - 1
- 10:20 FC Carlton v Elsternwick FC 9 - 0

State League Championship Catch Up Games Sun Mar 27th

- 7:40 FC Balwyn v Doncaster FC
- T.B.A Doncaster FC v Elsternwick FC

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY, THEO SOUFIS & JAMES SOUFIS

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Blue and White Derby Delight

NORTHCOTE CITY 4

HEIDELBERG UNITED 1

Match Details

Northcote City: 22. Chris Theodoridis-Petropoulos, 2. Adriano CHIAPPETTA, 3. Kristian KONSTANDINIDIS, 5. Nick TZOULIS, 8. Nicholas CURTIS, 10. Glen TRIFIRO, 12. Hayden D'AGOSTINO, 14. Eduardo SOARES, 16. Paul SAVIO, 18. James KALAFATIDIS, 23. Jason TRIFIRO. SUBS: 1. Charles TREACY, 20. Alvaro CARILLO, 15. George MCHEILEH, 17. Rodrigo COVARRUBIAS.

Goals: Soares 10', D'Agostino 28', Curtis 59', Covarrubias 90+1

Heidelberg United: 1. Griffin MC MASTER, 4. John LAZARIDIS, 14. Craig ELVIN, 16. Steve MARTIN, 2. Yared HAILEMELEKOT, 21. Richard GREER, 10. Adrian CACERES, 7. Hamlet ARMENIAN, 11. Evan CHRISTODOULOU, 18. Osagie EDERARO, 20. Saso ALEXOVSKI.

SUBS: 32. Jason KOUTSODONTIS, 8. Andrew NABBOUT, 5. George PAPADOPOLOUS, 23. Takanori NISHIMOTO, 22 Ben WEARING

Goals: Caceres 6' (pen).
Red cards: Lazaridis, Hailmelekot

By Tony Persoglia

Northcote City and Heidelberg United played out another entertaining derby goal feast at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon, yet it was the hosts who proved too strong with a 4-1 victory over an outgunned Bergers outfit that finished the match with nine men and nothing to show despite a promising start.

City were ruing the loss of captain Trent Rixon, declared a non-starter after having fluid drained from a cyst in his right foot on Friday afternoon. Harry Kinigopoulos also failed to come into calculations, with youngster Alvaro Carillo taking the vacant spot on the substitutes bench. With the experienced heads of Rixon and Kinigopoulos adding to an already lengthy injury list, the Bergers would have felt confident of a win, particularly after their clinical performance at home to the Oakleigh Cannons.

Indeed, early signs were positive for the visitors, particularly on five minutes, when referee Alex Azcurra had no hesitation in awarding a penalty to Heidelberg after Chris Petropoulos brought down the dangerous Hamlet Armenian. It was left to former A-League journeyman Adrian Caceras to put away the spot kick, his strike nestling neatly into the left corner of the net as the City custodian dived incorrectly to his right.

Once again, Northcote found themselves behind at home, but the match turned on its head merely three minutes later, with James Kalifatidis manhandled outside the area after appearing clean through on goal. Azcurra was clinical in issuing the red card to John Lazaridis, who was clearly the last man in a disorganised defense.

Up stepped Eddie Soares to address the set-piece, and his bending left foot shot cleared the wall and keeper Griffin McMaster, shaking the part of the net reserved for spiders and sending the vocal home fans into a state of delirium.

With ten minutes elapsed, there were already two goals and a red card, the derby was delivering on all fronts.

Northcote City claim the local derby scalp of Heidelberg United in emphatic fashion. Photo: PETER PSARROS

Despite the numerical disadvantage, the Bergers were able to control possession in the midfield for a brief period, and Caceras literally walked through the City defense in the 13th minute, Paul Savio arriving in the nick of time before he could unleash a shot on goal.

In the 16th minute, Soares had a chance to put the hosts in front and double his goal tally, his fierce strike blocked by the head of Yared Hailemelekot, who in truth new little about the shot. Kalifatidis spurned a great opportunity three minutes later, some great build up play by Jason Trifiro and Soares resulting in a headed shot just wide of the post.

Just short of the half-hour, City eventually took the lead it had been pressing for, Nicholas Curtis instrumental with his blocked shot on goal falling to an unmarked Hayden D'Agostino, who flicked his chance perfectly over McMaster and cue further celebrations for the John Cain faithful.

Northcote continued to create chances for the remainder of the half, the best of them falling to Konstantinidis in the 33rd minute, who rose well from a Glen Trifiro corner but failed to control his headed shot. Trifiro himself had a chance five minutes later, a result of some excellent lead-up work from D'Agostino and Curtis, but he scuffed his first time shot.

Caceras and Saso Alexsovski were doing their best to keep the Bergers in the contest, the latter with a good opportunity from long range just before the break, but Petropoulos was again on hand to alleviate any danger with a comfortable save.

City began the second half full of running, the Trifiro brothers in full control of the midfield and Kalifatidis causing no end of trouble. Just before the hour, Soares and Curtis combined once again to deliver the goal which broke the spirit of the visitors, Curtis' finish from out wide struck superbly in the bottom left corner, leaving McMaster with no chance at a save.

A second yellow card to Hailemelekot on 72 minutes proved another crucial blow to the visitors. With the Bergers down to nine men for the remainder of the contest, it was only a matter of time before another goal would deliver the final nail in the coffin, and it came via the young substitute Rodrigo Covarrubias, the 17-year-old scoring his first goal at senior level with a memorable finish from outside the box.

City's win sees them importantly gain ground on the competitions top teams, and they will take a great deal of confidence to Green Gully Reserve on Saturday, the Cavaliers themselves buoyant after a surprise win over the previously undefeated Dandenong Thunder. Heidelberg United return home where a clash with Melbourne Knights awaits.

Glen Trifiro on the ball for Northcote City. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Northcote's Hayden D'Agostino slips one past advancing Heidelberg keeper Griffin McMaster to put the Blues ahead 2-1.Photo: STEVE STAREK

Thunder Wakes Gully Slumber

DANDENONG THUINDER	0
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS	3

Match Details

Dandenong Thunder:
Webster, S., Lapham, K. (Hingert, J.35'), Rexhepi, S., Harrison, B., Tomic, A. (Rojas, A. 69'), Taylor, C., Sherbon L., Theodore, M. (Kearny, L. 46'), Korcari, V., Cooke, S, Gray, S.

Green Gully:
Roganovic, N, Jones, D, Drake, C., Fleming, J., Hayne, J., Fisher B., Hockless, G., Sanders, M., Medjedovic, M., Vargas, A., Munoz (Ollerton, R 92')

Scorers:
Hockless 2', Hayne 59', 76'

Man of the Match: Roganovic
Venue: George Andrews reserve
Crowd: 1000

By George Stogiannou

Reigning VPL premiers Green Gully upstaged the leading contender to its crown Dandenong Thunder 3-0 on Saturday evening at George Andrews reserve.

In desperate need of a pick-me-up to their sluggish title defence in 2011, the title holders produced the ideal tonic by defeating the undefeated Thunder in an exciting fast paced match. It wasn't a case of Thunder playing badly. They huffed and puffed but just couldn't blow the solid Gully defence down.

Gully took an early lead when Graham Hockless converted a Cameron Drake cross after just two minutes. Andy Vargas then narrowly missed doubling the lead when he found the side netting from a narrow angle, but the Green and Whites soon found themselves on the defensive for most of the first half as Thunder's midfield led by Chris Taylor clicked into gear. Gully keeper Nikola Roganovic was the busier of the two keepers and saved a certain goal from Thunder striker Stephen Cooke in a one on one. Roganovic was again on hand to take the sting out of a Luke Sherbon shot which was cleared off the goal line in a last ditch effort by the Gully defence.

Gully was able to counter Thunder's sustained pressure by maintaining a solid defensive structure and also produce some good passages of possession thanks to the cool-headed Jeff Fleming, Vargas and Hockless.

Thunder coach Stuart Munro introduced Liam Kearney for Matt Theodore at the start of the second half in a bid to give more width in attack. Again Thunder looked the more likely team to score but once again found Roganovic impassable this time at his near post from a Sherbon free. Skipper Veton Korcari blasted the rebound well over the bar.

Against the run of play, Gully striker Jason Hayne scored the first of his second half brace stunning the home fans with a sweetly struck 20 metre drive that flew past Thunder keeper Stuart Webster into the net in the 59th minute.

Once more the home team responded never giving up. But when Hayne headed home a Hockless cross 15 minutes later, it took the edge out of the contest and triggered a flow of fans to the exit.

Gully coach Lubo Lapsansky commented after the game, " Probably the best performance we've put on the park in the last six weeks. We've worked really hard today. It's a quality squad. There's no doubt. We just needed to get our heads down and roll our sleeves up, so I've just asked the boys today to put in the extra 10-15 per cent. When you're really down, there's no other way sometimes to turn things around, just to go to the best team in the league, put in a good performance and win three points. Absolutely pleased with the performance. BOG's all over the park today."

A philosophical Thunder coach Munro reflected afterwards, " Football is a funny game. Maybe we're a victim of trying to play good football this year. We maybe overplayed a little bit today. After conceding a goal early in each half, we dominated so basically the goals make a difference. But good luck to Gully. They were very strong defensively. Very professional. I can't believe they've won only one other game this year because they were so organised and strong defensively. Yet I felt we absolutely dominated the game. I can't fault any of my players for effort. I just thought it wasn't our day. If we have to lose a game of football, I'd rather lose it in that fashion, than lose it by playing terrible and coming in here (dressing room) and having a go at all the players."

H-Bomb: Jason Hayne and Graham Hockless were instrumental in taking Thunder apart. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Kiwi international Jason Hayne heads home a Graham Hockless cross to put Gully 3-0 up and well on the way to inflict Thunder's first defaeat of the season.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

Graham Hockless gets the show on the road for Gully after notching an early goal to break the deadlock. Photo: ANITA MILAS

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Richmond Take Down Bentleigh

RICHMOND EAGLES	3
BENTLEIGH GREENS	1

Match Details

Richmond:
1. Stejpan GAL, 3. Erhan KARAHAN, 4. Ross ANTONIADIS, 5. Mitch BISSINGER, 6. Dimitri TSIARAS, 7. Timmy PURCELL (11.Mate ETEROVIC), 9. Michael CATALANO (10. Chris O'HARE), 12. Jason HOFFMAN, 13. Antun KOVACIC, 16. Stuart WILSON, 18. Michael FERRANTE (19. Evan BATSIS).

Un-Used Subs: 10. 17. Anthony BRAHA, 20. Robbie SIMEONI.

Goasl: Hoffman, Ferrante (2).

Bentleigh Greens:
1.Peter GAVALAS, 3. Thomas MATHEWS, 8. Wayne WALLACE, 9. Sean MCLLROY, 10. Hayden DOYLE, 14. Aron WILFORD, 17. Jack WEBSTER, 22. Stuart NICHOLSON, 12. Adam FADLJEVIC, 4. Craig SMART, 16. Rayn DAVIDSON (7. James MCGARRY).

Un-Used Subs: 31. Kile KENNEDY, 25. Jonathan BOUNAS, 24. Anthony DESENSI.

Goals: Nicholson

By David Manuca

RICHMOND EAGLES have won their second game in a row after defeating Bentleigh Greens 3-1 at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

On loan striker Jason Hoffman netted the first goal in just the sixth minute before two goals from Michael Ferrante either side of Stuart Nicholson's strike earnt Richmond the three points.

Richmond made three changes to the squad that defeated VTC 1-0 on Wednesday night. Robert Simioni, Andrew Viola and Mate Eterovic all made way in the starting eleven for Stjepan Gal, Mitchell Bissinger and Michael Ferrante.

Bentleigh made two changes to the squad that beat St. Albans 2-0 last round with Scott Bulloch and Steve Laurie replaced by Adam Fadjlevic and Craig Smart.

Richmond was out of the blocks quickly, attacking right from the outset. Michael Catalano won an early corner but it was dealt with by the Bentleigh defence.

Though just six minutes into the game a massive mistake by Bentleigh goalkeeper Luke Gavalas gifted Richmond an early goal.

After a harmless ball in to the box, Gavalas and his defence were not on the right page as the goalkeeper dropped the ball before Jason Hoffman had the easy task of putting the ball into the back of the net from right in-front.

Bentleigh manager Andy O'Dell was furious with how his side were playing, being very animated on the sidelines in the opening 15 minutes.

It seemed to work as Bentleigh, after some great lead-up play, got their first shot on goal but Hayden Doyle could only shoot over the bar.

Richmond were still dominating the game though and in the 21st minute they doubled their advantage.

They were awarded a free-kick 30 yards out which Michael Ferrante stood up and took curling a shot that gave Gavalas no chance going in off the left post.

Bentleigh had a fantastic chance to pull a goal back right on the half hour mark when Craig Smart played a ball into Suart Nicholson who cut it back to Smart but his shot went straight to the keeper.

Seven minutes later Ferrante unleashed another cracker from outside the box but this Gavalas was alert to the danger producing a fine save tapping the ball over the bar out for a corner.

Two minutes after that Jason Hoffman should have had his second after Catalano crossed the ball in out left but an unmarked Hoffman could only put his header over the bar.

Richmond went into the break with a two goal advantage after dominating most of the first half.

Richmond started the second half like they did the first attacking from the outset. Jason Hoffman played a one-two with Dimitri Tsiarias but his shot was saved by Gavalas.

10 minutes in and O'Dell needed some inspiration upfront, bringing on James McGarry for Ryan Davidson.

Four minutes later and Stuart Nicholson almost pulled a goal back for Bentleigh but Stjepan Gal was intent on keeping a clean sheet tapping Nicholson's volley over the bar.

Bentleigh continued to search for a goal but a lack of good finishing hurt them once again. Sean McLlroy beat Erhan Karahan weaving his way into the box but his toe-poke from a tight angle went high and wide.

But just a minute later Bentleigh got the goal their determination deserved. Jack Wesbter played a magnificent through ball to Stuart Nicholson who calmly slotted the ball past Stjepan Gal.

Two minutes later Aron Wilford had a great chance to score Bentleigh's second but his header from a corner went agonizingly over the crossbar.

Just a minute after that and Bentleigh created yet another chance but the Richmond defence was in the way of Sean McLlroy's strike.

Richmond began to become very shaky as Bentleigh began to push for an equalizing goal.

But they withstood the pressure from Bentleigh and in the 70th minute they got their third goal of the match.

It was Michael Ferrante who scored once again getting on the end of a low cross from Jason Hoffman out right and tapping home an easy goal.

The closing twenty minutes saw both sides create a number of half chances but the scores remained 3-1 with Richmond winning their second on the trot.

Richmond travel to John Cain Memorial park next Sunday to take on Melbourne Knights at 3pm whilst Bentleigh Greens host Hume City at 8.15 on Friday.

"Yes," says Michael Ferrante after scoring the sealer for Richmond. Bentleigh keeper Peter Gavalas is in the net with the ball. PHOTO:JOHN PUNSHON

Battle of the blue-booted Stuarts ... Richmond's Stuart Wilson stretches to get there ahead of Stuart NicholsonPHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Stjepan Gal gets down to block Stuart Nicholson's goalward charge. Mitch Bissinger (right) and Ross Antoniadis are there to tidy up for Richmond if needed.PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Hume Held by White Eagles

HUME CITY 0

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES 0

Match Details

Hume City:
Lupce ACEVSKI(Kenny GEROH 46'), Isiyan ERDOGAN, Fabio DILIZIA, Adam NAKIC, Dusko DELIC, Richie CARDOZO, Andy VLAHOS, Zoran PETREVSKI, Michael BOSEVSKI (Alfonso OPAZO 60'), Philip RICCOBENE, Steven WEIR.

Unused Subs: Mark PISTININZI, Slave BOZINOVSKI, Atilla OFLI.
Yellow cards: Riccobene 39', Dilizia 59', Erdogan 75', Weir 88'.

Springvale White Eagles:
Scott AGUSTIN, Boris BAJIC, Nikola VELJOVIC, Adam EWIN, Dominic D'ANGELO, Zoran VUKAS (Gojko PONJEVIC 93'), Dushan NIKOLIC (Lewis KARANICOLAS 90'), Gordan MRDIC, Rados TOMIC (Paul MAGHIAR 72'), Milos LUJIC, Goran ZORIC.

Unused Subs: Christian MORALES, Andres JEREZ.

Yellow Cards: Veljovic 36', Vukas 45', Tomic 55', Zoric 77'.

By Steven Talevski

HUME CITY were held to a scoreless draw by the Springvale White Eagles at Broadmeadows Valley Park on Sunday afternoon.

The round seven clash was tightly contested as both teams attempted to improve their positions on the table.

The match began with an early opportunity for Zoran Petrevski who miss-controlled the ball and let a golden opportunity go by.

Hume continued to look for an opener as Dusko Delic was able to find some free space as he blew his shot well wide from the goal in the fifth minute.

Andy Vlahos gave 17 year old Adam Nakic his first start of the season and almost repaid the faith as the young defender hit his header wide from the goal in the 17th minute.

Hume defender Phillip Riccobene then found himself lucky as a flying challenge to White Eagle Goran Zoric resulted in only a free kick.

Adam Nakic was next to find himself lucky as his miss headed clearance narrowly went wide from his own goal.

Springvale went on from that chance as Captain Nikola Veljovic played a fantastic long ball to Rados Tomic who hit a volley well over the crossbar.

Lupce Acevski appeared to tweak his groin in the 36th minute from a goal kick and continued to struggle for the rest of the half.

Eagle's defender Nikola Veljovic was handed a yellow card in the 38th minute as he elbowed Zoran Petrevski in an aerial challenge.

The game continued to heat up as Phillip Riccobene was given a yellow card in the 39th minute for his third foul of the match.

The first half came to a close as Scott Agustin made a save from a Zoran Petrevski header.

Lupce Acevski was replaced at the beginning of the second half as his injury to his groin forced him off. Kenny Geroh came on to replace him for his second appearance of the season.

Geroh was forced into the save of the match as he leaped to get his finger tips to a shot placed in the top left corner by Gordan Mrdic.

Springvale White Eagles had calls for a penalty in the 62nd as Goran Zoric fell in the box in a one on one opportunity with Hume goalkeeper Kenny Geroh.

The penalty call failed, however it proved to be a promising attack as the partnership of Lujic and Zoric continues to blossom this season for the White Eagles.

Less than a minute later, Zoran Petrevski had his free header 2 metres from the goal skim the cross bar after a fantastic free kick delivery by Richie Cardozo.

Zoran Petrevski continued to work hard for his team as he provided substitute Alfonso Opazo with a header that once again went wide for Hume City.

Springvale had their best opportunity for the game in the 73rd minute as Milos Lujic hit his header wide.

Opazo found himself with another chance as he was able to get through the Springvale defence only to hit his shot straight to goalkeeper Scott Agustin.

Andy Vlahos persisted to find room as he gave Petrevski another opportunity that saw him hit his header over the cross bar.

Hume City looked for a winner as Adam Ewin cleared the ball off the line from a Zoran Petrevski shot in the 87th minute which was followed up by another header that was put wide from Petrevski.

Springvale had a counter attack in the 89th minute with Milos Lujic and Dushan Nikolic making space for Goran Zoric who drove his shot wide past the left post.

Hume City had the last opportunity of the game as they were rewarded with a free kick on the edge of the box. Richie Cardozo stepped up and forced Scott Agustin into a match saving dive.

As the final whistle blew Hume City were left to rue there missed chances to overtake Dandenong Thunder in second position, while Springvale came away with their fourth draw of the season.

Hume City visit Kingston Health Soccer Complex to face the Bentleigh Greens next Friday night as Springvale host Dandenong Thunder at White Eagles Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Hume City's Zoran Petrevski heads towards goal but the Springvale White Eagles hold firm. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

White Eagles' Goran Zoric tries to navigate his way from inbetween Hume City's Phil Riccobene (22) and Isiyan Erdogan. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

White Eagles' Milos Lujic utilises his long legs to beat Hume City's Richard Cardozo to the ball. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

South Go Top After Downing Dinamo

ST ALBANS SAINTS	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	2

Match Details

FINAL SCORE: ST ALBANS SAINTS 0-2 SOUTH MELBOURNE (HT: 0-1)

Goal scorers:
0-1: Fernando De Moraes (18')
0-2: Kyle Joryeff (73')

St Albans Dinamo
1. Steven PAVLOVIC, 4. Tomislav USKOK, 6. Alan PALEKA, 7. Goran JOZELJIC (21. Martin HANA 78'), 9. Josip LONCARIC, 14. Maks CUZE (22. Mustafa ALIBEYI 83'), 16. Mark PALEKA, 17. Daniel VISEVIC, 18. Stefan PIORKOWSKI, 19. Michael GRGIC, 23. Tomislav MILARDOVIC

South Melbourne Hellas
3. Rhodri PAYNE, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI, 8. Carl RECCHIA, 10. Kliment TASESKI, 13. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 14. Kamal IBRAHIM (24. Nick JACOBS 77'), 15. Fernando DE MORAES, 21. Zaim ZENELI, 23. Sebastian PETROVIC (16. Trent WATERSON 70'), 25. Kyle JORYEFF, 33. Bobby RUSSELL (18. Marinos GASPARIS 25')

Man of the Match: Ljubo Milicevic (South Melbourne)
Venue: Churchill Reserve
Date: Sunday 3 April 2011

By John Kyrou

SOUTH MELBOURNE FC is on top of the Victorian Premier League ladder after defeating St Albans 0-2 at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon. Goals from Fernando De Moraes and Kyle Joryeff gave South the three points against a spirited Dinamo side that were clapped off the field by the home supporters following a week of turmoil for the Croatian club.

Eddie Krncevic's side ventured to the unknown, travelling to Churchill Reserve for the first time since drawing 2-2 against Dinamo on 29 May 2005, the last time St Albans were in the Premier League.

The Saints had experienced a disastrous start to 2011, with only two points from their opening six matches. In contrast, South was sitting in second position on the League table following consecutive wins against Oakleigh and the Melbourne Knights. However South went to St Albans missing key players Jesse Krncevic, Steven Topalovic and captain Steven O'Dor. Carl Recchia moved into centre-half next to Ljubo Milicevic to replace O'Dor, whilst Kliment Taseski replaced Topalovic and Joryeff replaced Krncevic.

Fernando De Moraes had been chasing his 50th Premier League goal for South for several weeks and despite having many assists in goals recently, he had been unable to score his half century of goals for the Club. That was until the 18th minute of Sunday's match. South won a corner following a curling strike from Joryeff that was tipped over the bar magnificently by Saints goalkeeper Steven Pavlovic. Taseski's corner could only be cleared by the St Albans defence to De Moraes standing just outside the area. De Moraes cooly chested the ball down before hitting a half-volley that crept into the bottom left corner of Pavlovic's goal, with the big keeper rooted to the spot. The goal finally gave De Moraes his 50th Premier League goal for South Melbourne FC but more importantly gave the away side the lead.

South's defence had been under pressure all season and was under even more strain without O'Dor and Topalovic. However, Milicevic and Recchia put in outstanding performances to keep the away side's one goal lead intact. St Albans nearly scored right on halftime when a free kick played into the area led to an almighty scramble, resulting in Recchia using his face to clear a point-blank vicious volley from the six-yard box out for a corner. Post-match, Recchia claimed that the flag had been raised for offside prior to the shot that hit his face, regardless it was an outstanding save.

In the second half, the home side pressed early and put South under pressure, however Milicevic and Recchia stood firm and soaked up the pressure before South killed off the game with a sucker-punch second goal on 73 minutes. Milicevic won the ball in midfield and went on a mazy run that dragged four St Albans defenders out of the contest before he laid the ball off for Joryeff to slot into the far corner for his fourth goal in seven League matches this season. Despite a few slightly hairy moments including a free kick shortly after the 0-2 that narrowly sailed over the crossbar, South was largely untroubled for the remainder of the match and as a result recorded its first clean sheet of 2011. For St Albans the result spelt an end to a horrific week, however the home side can be encouraged with a positive performance against the current League leaders.

St Albans travels to Oakleigh on Friday night to play the Cannons, with kick-off at 20:30 at Jack Edwards Reserve. South Melbourne FC's next match is at home against the Richmond Eagles next Sunday, with kick-off at 15:00.

Fernado De Moraes brings up his 50th goal for South Melbourne and helps send the club to the top of the AVPL
Photo: STEVE STAREK

Tomislav Uskok rises high to meet the ball with a header but South Melbourne are well marshalled by man of the match Ljubo Milicevic. Photo: STEVE STAREK

St Albans' Alan Paleka keeps his eye on the ball as Kamal Ibrahim follows closely behind.
Photo: STEVE STAREK

Cannons Return To Winners List

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	1
OAKLEIGH CANNONS	2

Match Details

MATCH STATS
SHOTS: MK 7 OC 7
TARGET: MK 4 OC 5
CORNERS MK 0 OC 6

Melbourne Knights: John, S.Romein (Sweeney 73'), Filipovic, Surey, De Camego Junior, Saglam (Shin 46'), Kozic, A. Colosimo, Dragicevic, Zilic (Yusef 46') J. Colosimo.

Not Used A. Romein, Magdic.

Goals: J. Kozic 52 Pen.

Oakleigh Cannons: Zois, Obradovic, Bran, Goodwin, Milovanovic (Damianos 56'), Lagana, Downes, Walker, Tavsanoglu, Diaco (Antic 83'), Hatzikostas (Beckit 73').

Not Used: Neesham,

Yellow Cards: Zois 51', Diaco 70', Hatzikostas 78'.

Goals: Milovanovic 10', Lagana 45'.

MoM: Peter Zois (OC)

Crowd: Approx 1000 @ Knights Stadium.

By Andrew Fisher

THE Oakleigh Cannons have ended a two match losing streak after defeating the Melbourne Knights 2-1 at Knights Stadium on Sunday evening, thanks to two first half goals to Dane Milovanovic and Frank Lagana.

The Knights fielded a depleted first eleven missing key players Mathieu Welmont and Jean Dubios, and immediately found themselves on the back foot from an Oakleigh side that came out all Cannons blazing.

After just five minutes Ricky Diaco thought he was clean through on goal, until a desperate challenge from Adam Zilic thwarted any attempt of a shot at goal.

Diaco was in the thick of it early, and in the 9th minute he forced a mistake from De Camego Junior, winning possession on the edge of the box, the strikers shot beat Martin John in the Knights goal, but struck the post as the Cannons pushed for an opener.

They didn't have to wait much longer as just a minute later, Diaco sent in a telling cross that found Dane Milovanovic unmarked in a crowed box to head home a much deserved opened for the visitors.

This sparked the home side into action, in the 15th minute Daniel Dragicevic set up Jacob Colosimo who forced a fine save from Peter Zios in the Cannons' goal. Rudi Saglam was guilty of wasting a good chance on goal by blazing well over, before Adam Zilic long range drive found Zois equal to the test. The Cannons keeper was commanding his area superbly, confidently catching any ball that the home side put into the box.

Oakleigh almost doubled the lead in the 36th minute, when the referee got in the way of play, with the ball falling invitingly for Walker who stuck a 25yard effort onto the crossbar.

In the 40th minute, a superb pass from Filipovic set up Jacob Colosimo with a one on one with Zois, the Cannons keeper again denying the home side with a fine save low to his left.

Just as the Knights conceded they would be going into the half time break trailing by the one goal, the Cannons sent a dagger though their hearts. A Lagana free kick from 35yards out, somehow was missed by everyone and was allowed to roll into the far post much to the bemusement of the Knights players and their fans.

A Diaco free kick early into the second half drew a good save from Martin John as the Cannons started the second half in a similar fashion to the first.

However in the 52nd minute the home side found a way back into the match, Peter Zois who had been flawless up until this point, fouled Dragicevic inside the box and conceded a penalty. Kozic confidently sent Zois the opposite direction to score his fourth for the season, all from the spot.

The Knights pushed forward and looked dangerous on the attack, but the absences of Welmont and Dubios was evident as the home side lacked any creativity and flair in the final third.

Dragicevic had the best chance for the Knights to equalise in the 72nd minute when his 30 yard volley cannoned off the crossbar.

Oakleigh defended well for the last fifteen minutes, slowing down the tempo of the match and holding off the waves of Knights pressure. The visitors could have pinched a third goal in stoppage time as former Knights player Melvin Beckit broke clear and lobbed his effort over John but just fell agonisingly wide.

Next week the Cannons host the bottom of the ladder St Albans on Friday night, whilst the Melbourne Knights face a tough away trip to Heidelberg on Sunday evening.

The Cannons are smiling once more: Brian Bran, Dane Milovanovic and Frankie Lagana enjoy the spoils. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Oakleigh's Dane Milovanovic stoops low to head past Martin John in the Knights goal. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Melbourne	8	5	2	1	20	13	17
Dandenong Thunder	7	5	1	1	14	7	16
Oakleigh Cannons	8	5	1	2	16	11	16
Hume City	7	4	2	1	12	7	14
Northcote City	7	3	1	3	15	12	10
Bentleigh Greens	7	3	1	3	9	10	10
VTC Football	7	3	0	4	10	13	9
Melbourne Knights	8	2	2	4	12	12	8
Green Gully Cavaliers	7	2	1	4	9	9	7
Richmond	7	2	1	4	8	16	7
Heidelberg Utd	7	2	3	2	9	10	6
Springvale White Eagles	7	1	3	3	15	20	6
St Albans Saints	7	0	2	5	8	17	2

Alanic VPL Round 8

Fri 8 Apr 8:15PM
Bentleigh Greens v Hume City
Kingston Heath

Fri 8 Apr 8:30PM
Oakleigh Cannons v St Albans
Jack Edwards Reserve

Sat 9 Apr 3:00PM
Green Gully v Northcote City
Green Gully Reserve

Sun 10 Apr 3:00PM
Springvale v Dandenong Thunder
White Eagles Stadium

Sun 10 Apr 3:00PM
Sth Melbourne v Richmond Eagles
John Cain Memorial

Sun 10 Apr 6:00PM
Heidelberg Utd v Melb Knights
Olympic Park (Village)

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
Oakleigh Cannons	7	5	1	1	24	12	16	
South Melbourne	7	4	2	1	19	13	14	
Green Gully Cavaliers	7	4	2	1	16	11	14	
Heidelberg Utd	6	4	1	1	14	11	13	
Melbourne Knights	7	3	2	2	18	8	11	
Hume City	7	3	2	2	17	11	11	
Dandenong Thunder	7	3	1	3	19	15	10	
Northcote City	7	3	1	3	12	14	10	
Springvale White Eagles	7	3	0	4	20	22	9	
Bentleigh Greens	7	2	1	4	12	20	7	
VTC Football	7	2	0	5	12	23	6	
Richmond	7	1	0	6	9	24	3	
St Albans Saints	7	1	1	5	14	22	1	

Northcote City 4
Heidelberg Utd 1

Dandenong Thunder 1
Green Gully Cavaliers 4

St Albans Saints 1
South Melbourne 2

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